

*Hafa Adai!*

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High failure rate, past due debts sticking point with streetlights. » **PAGE 5**

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

**FOR PREVAILING IN ELECTION CHALLENGE**

## 'Hold Dela Cruz liable for \$28K'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**inian and Aguiguan mayor-elect Joey Patrick San Nicolas has asked the Superior Court to hold the islands' outgoing mayor, Ramon M. Dela Cruz, liable to pay him \$26,019 in attorneys' fees and \$2,203.25 in costs in connection with Dela Cruz's failed election challenge.

In a motion for judgment for attorneys' fees and costs, San Nicolas, through counsel Viola Alepuyo, asserts that his requested amounts are reasonable due to the nature of this case and the expedited deadlines.

Alepuyo cited that CNMI law clearly provides for costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in situations like this.

Alepuyo cited an election contests code

that states that "if the proceedings under this section are dismissed for insufficient evidence or for want of prosecution, or the election is confirmed by the court, judgment shall be rendered against the contestant, for costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, in favor of the defendant."

**See HOLD on Page 4**



### WOMEN POWER

Outgoing Saipan Mayor Marian DLG Tudela poses with a House resolution honoring her together with Reps. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Teresita A. Santos (R-Saipan), and Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan) as well as family and friends at the House chamber yesterday.

MARK RABAGO

**See story on Page 2**

## Tearful Reyes bids adieu to politics

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 19th Senate's *sine die* yesterday turned into a full-blown retirement ceremony for one of the Legislature's graybeards—Senate floor leader Pete Pangelinan Reyes.

Surrounded by colleagues—both present and former law-

makers—family and friends, the 68-year-old retired U.S. Army veteran bid adieu to the Legislature, which he said has

**See TEARFUL on Page 4**

MARK RABAGO

Senate floor leader Pete Pangelinan Reyes bids his colleagues farewell during the 19th Senate's *sine die* yesterday. At Reyes' left is Sen. Jovita Taimanao. ➤



## Inaugurations galore this Monday

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI government officially turns a new leaf this Monday as inaugurations of the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Northern Islands as well as their respective municipal councils, members of the House of Representatives and

the Senate, and the governor and lieutenant governor all take place on Capital Hill.

First to be sworn in is Tinian mayor-elect Joey Patrick San Nicolas at 9am at the Governor's Office conference room. San Nicolas will take his oath of office with the Tinian and Agu-

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## INSIDE



### NATION

Prospective jurors who could decide Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's fate got their first look at him.

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### WORLD

He's young, experienced and wants to play—but Ched Evans is also a convicted rapist.

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### GOOD

### HOUSEKEEPING

Designers across the country are embracing red for home decor.

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## Local

## House honors CNMI's first woman mayor

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The House of Representatives honored outgoing Saipan Mayor Marian DLG Tudela with a resolution during the lower chamber's *sine die* yesterday.

With the distinction of being the first ever female mayor of

## Man arrested for beating up wife

A man allegedly beat up his common-law wife at their home in Chalan Kanoa, scaring their three children and prompting them to seek the help of their aunt on Sunday night.

Francisco Rabauliman Ilo, 37, was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$300 cash bail for Ilo's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 13, 2015 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Dee Liza Udui stated in her report that when police officers responded to the scene, they saw the alleged victim and her two daughters crying. The victim's sister appeared to be upset and was breathing hard.

the CNMI, it was a no-brainer for the House to bestow a commemorative resolution on Tudela, who took over from mayor Sonny Flores who passed away in June of last year.

"I thought it was going to be hard but it became easier as the months passed by. To me, it was very challenging but I always liked to help

people," Tudela said in an interview after receiving the House resolution.

During her short stint at the helm of the Saipan Mayor's Office, she was able to continue some of Flores' programs and in fact facilitated the acquisition of major equipment like a backhoe and bucket truck critical for the municipal government to dispense its services to the community.

Tudela added that she hopes her legacy as the first female mayor of the Commonwealth would be replicated in the future.

"I am very proud of that achievement and hope there would be more female mayors in the future. If I can do it, others can, too."

As far as future plans go, the outgoing mayor said she would fly back to Arizona for family matters before going back to Saipan where at least

three job opportunities in the private sector await her.

She said a company wants to hire her as a liaison between the company and the Division of Customs, while another offer is in the realty industry.

House Resolution 18-68, whose main author is Rep. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan), honors Tudela for her distinguished career in the public sector and to congratulate and commend her for her countless

exemplary accomplishments and contributions to the people of the CNMI.

From 1994 to 1998 and from 2006 to 2008, Tudela was a member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. She has also served on the boards of the NMI Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

She was also recently honored in the 113th U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Record Volume 160, No. 137. HR 18-68 passed the House last Dec. 10.

Udui said that, according to the alleged victim, she, Ilo and their three minor children had just come from a family party on Capital Hill on Sunday when Ilo got mad at her and repeatedly slapped her. This prompted their two daughters to run to their aunt's house west of their residence.

The alleged victim took their minor son and they both ran to her sister's house, where her two daughters had already fled.

Ilo followed and slapped her again. The victim's sister told him to stop, but he shouted at her telling her it's none of her business. Ilo only stopped slapping her when her sister called the police.

Police arrived and arrested Ilo. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Regents discuss facility financing

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents discussed yesterday facility financing through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ahead of a scheduled meeting with USDA Area Director Joseph Diego on Jan. 21.

Regent William Torres, who has been exploring alternative financing mechanisms for the college's reconstruction efforts, led the discussion.

Guam colleges have availed of the Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan program under the USDA's Rural Development program.

The University of Guam, for example, has borrowed \$13.5 million over 40 years at 4.5 per-

cent interest, and Guam Community College has borrowed \$3.5 million.

College president Dr. Sharon Hart said she would be meeting with Guam Community College president Mary Okada and UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood next week and would ask about the "collateral" committed in these deals.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that UOG services its debt through a combination of commitment from the Guam Legislature for an annual appropriation of \$500,000 per year for the life of the loan, \$200,000 from the UOG Endowment Foundation, and \$50,000 from internal rev-

enue sources.

Torres said the "usefulness" of having a foundation involved is that they are "outside the debt ceiling of the government."

But this might not apply to NMC, according to regent Juan T. Lizama, as the NMC Foundation is not a 501(c)(3) organization, or a tax-exempt charitable organization.

"Until such time we have a 501(c)(3) there is no way this college can act like how Guam is acting right now," Lizama said.

But Torres also pointed to the Public School System who he said in the past serviced a debt of about \$10 million through a commitment from the Legislature.

In 2011, a master plan for

## Reconstruction was adopted

by the board that would cost some \$34 million to \$37 million and be implemented in phases. In 2012, As Terlaje was set as the permanent campus for NMC.

But since then "financing [for reconstruction]—much to our surprise—has been more tough than we thought," Torres told the board.

"There needs to be an alternative way [for facility financing] so our students won't have to bear with this kind of learning environment," he said.

The college has not undergone major reconstruction since it was built on or about 1955 as a single story, semi-concrete hospital. *(Dennis B. Chan)*

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hospital. *(Dennis B. Chan)*



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## 'Estate administrator agrees to settle lawyer's claim for \$130K'

» Wiseman, who earlier ruled for \$99,256, refuses to hear matter for approval

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The current administrator for the estate of Rita Rogolifoi has agreed to settle for \$130,000 the attorney's fee claim by lawyer Brien Sers Nicholas, who served as counsel for the former estate administrator.

But Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who earlier determined that \$99,256.76 is the reasonable amount in additional payment for Nicholas, rejected Nicholas' request for the court to hear their settlement deal, according to court documents.

The Rogolifoi estate previously paid \$71,006.25 in legal fees to Nicholas, who was counsel for former estate administrator Enrique Seman.

Clarence "Bud" White, the current administrator for the Rogolifoi estate, submitted before the Superior Court last Dec. 19 an administrator's accounting of the estate's account.

In the footnote of the report, White, through counsel Stephen N. Nutting, cited that Wiseman awarded Nicholas \$99,256.76 in attorney's fees, but that Nicholas has indicated his desire to appeal the matter to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Nutting said such an appeal would cost the estate an estimated \$15,000 to \$25,000 in attorney's fees to defend and to perhaps bring a cross-appeal.

Nutting said that, while White is confident in successfully defending against the appeal, he is aware of the fact that there always is a risk involved in litigation.

More importantly, Nutting said, White is concerned that dragging the estate through another one to two years of litigation in court would create additional expenses for the estate.

Nutting said that, as counsel for White, he therefore negotiated a full and final settlement in the amount of \$130,000 to obtain a release of all of Nicholas'

claims against the estate.

It means the parties agreed that Nicholas should get an additional \$130,000 instead of \$99,256.76 that Wiseman earlier determined to be reasonable.

Nicholas' original claim for payment of attorney's fees was \$853,369.99, which he asserted is 30 percent of the estate's total recovery and pursuant to the retainer agreement and negotiations with the estate administrator.

White also disclosed that the estate has a current balance of \$368,546.12. He requested for payment of \$200,000 to the Rogolifoi heirs, \$130,000 to Nicholas (settlement), \$6,953.79 for him (White), and \$8,560 to the former attorney for the estate, Shiela Trianni.

Last Dec. 23, Nicholas filed in court an ex parte motion requesting for a hearing about their joint motion for a court approval of their \$130,000 settlement.

That same day, Dec. 23, Wiseman approved White's request for payment of \$200,000 for distribution among the heirs of Rogolifoi estate, \$6,953 for him (White), and \$8,560 for Trianni.

In a separate order also that same day, Wiseman denied Nicholas' ex parte motion.

Ex parte refers to an application to the court by one of the parties to the action without the other party being present or heard.

Wiseman said that for him to schedule a hearing to entertain a post-decision settlement on the very issue he ruled upon is without judicial precedent.

With that ruling, Nicholas then filed a writ, asking the CNMI Superior Court to issue an order mandating Wiseman to vacate his Dec. 23 orders for partial distribution.

Last week, CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos issued an order suspending Wiseman's orders concerning the partial distribution of \$200,000 to the heirs pending resolution of Nicholas' petition.

## Japan trip registration deadline closing in

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor's Office executive assistant Yuki Kishimoto is urging those interested to participate in a Japan trip this year to register as soon as possible.

The six-day Sanpo En Japan trip will be held on Feb. 4 to 10 and Kishimoto is inviting all schools and any students willing to join the trip.

The Sanpo En group is looking at 12 students, ages 10 to 18 years old, and two chaperones.

"The students need to pay for their airfare but the accommodations will be covered by Sanpo En. It's open for all schools. They can get the application form at

the mayor's office or download it from our website, [www.saipan-mayor.net](http://www.saipan-mayor.net)," Kishimoto said.

"But it's a first come, first serve basis so they must turn in their application forms first. Sanpo En wants to get the list of participants [as early as possible]," Kishimoto said.

Applications need to be turned in by Jan. 15.

This year will mark the 37th year since the relationship between Saipan and Sanpo En was created.

For more information about the Japan trip, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or visit its office at the second floor of the Ladera Building along Beach Road in Oleai.

## NMC: NMTI bill would create confusion and inefficiency

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
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REPORTER

A Senate bill that would establish the Northern Marianas Technical Institute as a public charter school conflicts with the CNMI Constitution, duplicates the Northern Marianas College's responsibilities, and refers to "postsecondary degrees" that should be reserved for the college, according to NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart in comments she submitted to the House last week.

The House referred Senate Bill 18-72 bill to committee during their session last week. The bill would establish NMTI as an "adult vocational and continuing education charter school."

While the college has stated it supports NMTI's goals, it took issue with how the bill "dilutes the mandates set forth" by the CNMI Constitution.

According to the Constitution, the college "shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, postsecondary and adult vocational education and professional development."

The bill's proposal to create a school that runs "adult secondary and postsecondary education programs" would infringe on the mandates that the college was established on, according to Hart.

The bill gives NMTI's board the ability to offer "academic courses," issue "adult high school diplomas" and "postsecondary education degrees." But these functions are already performed by NMC, Hart said.

"The bill provides no clear explanation or definition of how the functions of [NMTI] would be different from those of the Northern Marianas Col-

lege," Hart said.

"Not only is the overlap going to create confusion and inefficiency, but creating another public entity with similar functions will dilute the limited funds that are available for appropriation to the college," she said.

Hart said the bill's intention could be satisfied by defining the charter school as a "not-for-profit public vocational school" as opposed to a "not-for-profit postsecondary school and removing references throughout the bill to postsecondary education, degrees, and diplomas.

Hart was also concerned

about a section of the bill that would establish the NMTI as the Board of Control for funding through the United States Vocational Education Act, also now referred to as the Perkins Act.

This would give NMTI board control over Perkins funding to the Commonwealth, Hart said.

"I hope that the Legislature will clearly carve out a niche for NMTI that does not duplicate the efforts of PSS or Northern Marianas College," Hart said.

When asked about the bill yesterday, Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero said

he has yet to review it.

NMC has been previously criticized for not pursuing vocational education as part of its goals to develop the workforce. *Saipan Tribune* learned that in 2006 Public Law 15-5 authorized NMC to establish the United States Registered Apprenticeship Training program, but since then no program has materialized reportedly due to lack of funds.

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TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION  
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

#### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY**
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Penalty Waiver request
- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Approval of TCGCC Official Forms
    - 1) Barring Appeal Forms
    - 2) Patron Complaint Forms
  - b. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
  - c. Licensing Matters
    - 1) Casino Key Employee License Applications
    - 2) Casino Employee License Applications
    - 3) Casino Service Industry License Applications
    - 4) Hotel Registrations
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
  - a) TCGCC Congratulatory Remarks
- VII. ADJOURNMENT**

\*Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.  
\*Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Marpi Point Field Remedial Investigation



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to attend a public meeting during which elements of the Marpi Point Field remedial investigation draft final work plan and technical approach will be presented. The remedial investigation is being performed in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your input on work plan components so the plan can be finalized prior to field work commencement anticipated in February 2015.

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
Meeting Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Meeting Location: American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater

For more information regarding the planned remedial investigation, please contact Helene Takemoto, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District Project Manager at:

Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Honolulu District  
Programs and Project Management Division  
Environmental Branch  
Building 252  
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)  
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440  
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# Speaker describes 18th House as ‘Working House’

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 18th House of Representatives adjourned for the last time yesterday and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said if there's a characteristic that best describes the lower chamber from 2013-2015 is that it's a "Working House."

"I've been thinking a lot about the 18th House and what distinguishes this House from the seven other, eight other House that I worked with. Let me sum it up by saying that I think this House could be called

the Working House. We have averaged about a session week. And that is almost unrealistic. It placed a lot of demands on the members. That's time in the House that has kept you from going out to your precincts a lot. But that's also a testament to the many bills that your committees have produced. And I think you should be congratulated for being very productive," he said during his *sine die* message.

Deleon Guerrero, who was re-elected to the incoming 19th Legislature, said he's also proud that the 18th House of Representatives was a transparent group.

"I want to say that transparency is also one of the hallmarks of this House. We have tried every extent possible to air all of our sessions. Every session has been aired and our public now understands what their representatives do... We go to the extent in clarifying what the bills are and encourage discussion and debate so the public can understand what the issues are being debated by their leaders."

Another admirable trait of the 18th House, he said, is that all members had a great working relationship so much so that the lines between the leadership and

the minority were blurry at times.

"I think there was cooperation between the leadership and the minority. It almost felt like there was no minority during the 18th as we all worked together very smoothly and very efficiently. There will always be debate. I think there's a misunderstanding out there that when we argue here that we're fighting, I'd like to think that's a necessary part of this process. Every one of you is entitled to air your concerns. While some may view it as being contentious, debates are a healthy part of this process. Perhaps, down the road

people will appreciate that. All of you to a large extent have contributed so that our people's interests are always protected."

Aside from Deleon Guerrero, all 17 representatives present also delivered their *sine die* messages. All of them thanked the House staff for their contributions in the 18th Legislature, their fellow representatives for their hard work and cooperation, as well as the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos for moving the CNMI back to economic prosperity with the enactment of laws passed by the House related to casino, the Retirement Fund, and other revenue-generating measures.

Deleon Guerrero as well as Reps. Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Edmund

Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogomoro (Ind-Saipan), Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and George Camacho (R-Saipan) are returning for the 19th House of Representatives.

They will be joined by freshmen representatives Edwin Propst, Edwin Aldan, Francis Taimanao, Vinson Sablan, Angel Demapan, Joseph "Leepan" T. Guerrero, and Glenn L. Maratita, and Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao.

Reps. Richard Seman (R-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Mario Taitano (R-Saipan), Christopher Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), and Vice Speaker Francisco Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), will not be returning for the 19th House.

Santos won a Senate seat and Conner lost one, while the rest weren't successful in their House reelection bids.

## HOLD

From Page 1

Alepuyo said that based on that code, to prevail on his motion for attorneys' fees and costs, San Nicolas must satisfy the court that the proceedings were dismissed for insufficient evidence, want of prosecution or that the election was confirmed by the court.

"If mayor-elect San Nicolas proves that one of these events occurred, then the plain meaning of the statute provides that the court shall render judgment against the contestant for costs and reasonable attorneys' fees," the lawyer said.

Alepuyo said a review of the court's orders reveals that San Nicolas is entitled to fees and costs as Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja dismissed the proceedings for insufficient

evidence and that the judge confirmed the election result.

Naraja confirmed the election result in his order on Dec. 12, 2014.

Alepuyo also cited that Naraja's Dec. 11, 2014, order granting San Nicolas' and the Commonwealth Election Commission's motions to dismiss Dela Cruz's lawsuit also supports a judgment against the incumbent mayor for attorneys' fees and costs.

Alepuyo said Dela Cruz's complaint made allegations of "several irregularities" in the election. However, she pointed out, during the course of the recount, all of those allegations were proven false.

"In other words, there was insufficient evidence to support his allegations," the lawyer said.

Alepuyo said Naraja's Dec. 11 order dismissed Dela Cruz's complaint because it contained

insufficient evidence to support a finding of actual prejudice.

"All that is required under the statute for an award of fees and costs is a dismissal for insufficient evidence," said Alepuyo, concluding that under the plain language of the statute, San Nicolas is entitled to fees and costs.

In her declaration in support of the motion for judgment, Alepuyo said that based on their hourly rate at \$210 and work performed, her attorney's fee in this matter is \$16,390.50, while her co-counsels Matthew T. Gregory's fee is \$8,998.50 and Braddock Huesman's is \$630.

Alepuyo said the total costs incurred is \$2,203.25, which includes Gregory's \$424.50.

The Commonwealth Election Commission also reportedly incurred \$11,995 in expenses for the two-day recount and accounting of votes in connection with Dela Cruz's election

challenge over the victory of San Nicolas in the Tinian mayoral race.

As of yesterday, CEC has yet to file its request for costs.

In his lawsuit, Dela Cruz alleged several irregularities during the Nov. 4 election, including a discrepancy between the votes cast for Tinian mayor tabulated on Tinian and the tabulation on Saipan of the votes physically cast on Tinian for Tinian mayor. He also alleged that seven votes were cast by voters serving sentences for felonies.

At a court-ordered recount last Dec. 1, Dela Cruz garnered 696 votes, San Nicolas got 705, while David Cing obtained 47.

During the first counting of votes, San Nicolas of the Republican Party won by seven votes, 703-696, over independent Dela Cruz.

Last Dec. 11, Naraja dismissed Dela Cruz's lawsuit.

## TEARFUL

From Page 1

become a big part of his life.

"Today would be my final official participation as a member of this august body. I am retiring from the Legislature. A big part of my life was spent here in the Legislature and I would be remiss if I do not take this opportunity to thank all of you, most especially for some of you, who think that I am a pain in the barrel but have tolerated me," he said while cracking a smile.

Reyes, who sported a new haircut, a crimson shirt, and classic tie, offered no apologies for the 23 years he has spent both as a representative in the House and a senator in the Senate.

"I have been known to be stubborn and firm in what I believe is right for the people that I represent. We all have our hearts on doing what is right. Where we differ is on how we get there. But what I value the most is the respect that we extend to each other, regardless of our differences."

Reyes said if there's something he wants people to remember him by during his tenure in the Legislature, it would be his work for advancing education in the Commonwealth.

"If I were to leave a legacy of my accomplishments during my

terms in office, I can say with pride that my support for the education of our children will top the list. My tireless commitment to the Scholarship Office and my desire to see our people return to our islands armed with degrees and ready to pitch in the economic development of our great Commonwealth is my greatest pride. What can make our Commonwealth prosper and become the envy of our region depends greatly on how much we support our children's education. Only then can we realize their contributions in making the CNMI a great Commonwealth. I read once that the only way to bring ourselves out of poverty is to educate our children. I ask every single one of you to never forget the need to support the teachers and schools and the need to continue supporting the scholarship program," he said.

Reyes also reminisced about the first time he was elected into office in November 1991.

"How I was immediately educated on how not to allow my head to grow big and act like I know everything. We all have the tendency to feel that being elected into office transforms us into someone who doesn't need anyone to tell us or advise us because we know everything. Remember that, colleagues? Many, not all of us did, but I was

one who felt the painful experience in finding out how the Legislature works and the different dynamics it takes to push your bill into law. Because I sincerely believe that if you did not have any of your bills become law, then your time in the Legislature is wasted and you have not done anything to advance the life of our people."

Reyes said his decision to not seek reelection after six terms in the House and four terms in the Senate wasn't easy.

"It took a great deal of soul searching and the understanding support of my family that moved me to make that hard decision. A good friend and a firm supporter told me that I have no right to just decide to leave office and not go around the island informing each and everyone that have supported me throughout the years. He says that when I need their support and vote of confidence, I walk the street of Saipan asking individually to help vote for me. Of course he's right. But after 21 years of government service and another 23 years in public office, I think it is time for me to start getting to know my grandchildren a little better."

His parting advice to those who will be carrying on at the Legislature and other leaders of the island is to think of themselves first as public servants.

"To all of you who remain to do the work of rebuilding our Commonwealth, I urge you to look beyond the status of your title and even beyond the challenges you will no doubt encounter, but to set your sights on a vision of a prosperous Commonwealth, one with an educated and productive workforce, a safe and secure society where children, mothers, fathers and extended family live in peace and no one fears for their lives, an island home where diversity is celebrated and where there is tranquility of spirit that reflects our beautiful culture, from the environment to our hearts."

Prior to his *sine die* message, family, friends, and his colleagues took turns honoring Reyes for his 23 years of service in the Legislature and 21 years of work in the government.

A graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Guam, Reyes enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He worked for the Trust Territory government as well as the Commonwealth government before entering politics in 1991.

Reyes is married to Glenna Sakisat-Palacios Reyes and is blessed with seven children (Yvonne and Wayne, Dwaine, Yvette and Jose, Peter, Jake, Kiana and Isa) and 15 grandchildren.

## Guam creates tax incentives to boost hotel rooms

**HAGATNA, Guam** (AP)—Guam has created tax incentives to encourage developers to build 1,600 new hotel rooms in the next five years with a new law enacted Wednesday.

The law will also provide tax incentives for existing hotel owners to expand their facilities, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The steps will help the U.S. territory compete with other tourist destinations, officials said.

"It was absolutely necessary

to provide an incentive," said Mana Silva Taijeron, deputy administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

Developers would receive a tax abatement, an exemption, and a rebate equal to 10 percent of their total construction costs.

The law calls for the incentives to end in 2020 or when 1,600 rooms are built. The incentives would also end if the U.S. includes China in a visa waiver program allowing people to travel to the U.S. without a visa for 90 days or less.

## INAUGURATIONS

From Page 1

igan Municipal Council composed of Diana Hocog Borja, Edwin Manglona Hofschneider, and Reynaldo Mendiola Cing.

It will be followed at 9:15am by the inauguration ceremony for Rota officials led by mayor-elect Efraim Manglona Atalig and the island's municipal council members: George Ogo Hocog, Roman Mendiola Hocog, and Ivan Mareb Jr.

It will be the turn of Northern Islands mayor-elect Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan and Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council at 9:30am. Council members include Lareina Castro Camacho, Antonio Manibusan Tudela, and Alice Santos Igitol.

The 9:45am slot, meanwhile, is open for the swearing in of Saipan mayor-elect David Mundo Apatang.

The 19th Legislature, for its part, has set its inauguration at 10am at the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill.

The incoming House members include 18th House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), floor leader Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), and Reps. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Roman

Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogomoro (Ind-Saipan), Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), and freshmen representatives Edwin Propst, Edwin Aldan, Francis Taimanao, Vinson Sablan, Angel Demapan, Joseph "Leepan" T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, and Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao.

The 19th Senate, meanwhile, will be made up of incoming Senate President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota), incoming Senate vice president Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider who is returning to the upper chamber, Sens. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) and Frank Cruz (R-Saipan) as well as freshmen senators Arnold Palacios, Teresita Santos, Justo Quiguita, and Steven K. Mesngon.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and lieutenant governor-elect Ralph DLG. Torres will be sworn in as the Commonwealth's top executives beginning 3pm at the west lawn of the Governor's Office.

The day before the inauguration, the governor- and lieutenant governor-elect will attend a Red Mass at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. On the evening of the inauguration, Inos and Torres will be hosting a People's Inaugural Fiesta beginning at 6pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The event is invitation-only and the attire is formal.



# High failure rate, past due debts sticking point with streetlights

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Streetlights around the island currently face two issues: the high failure rate of LED streetlights and past due debts, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher.

Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday that CUC is addressing the LED light replacements with the manufacturer and hopes to find a resolution soon. The second issue on past due bills—amounting to some \$1.5 million—is being pursued, he said.

The issue of streetlights was brought up by a Saipan resident on Dec. 18, at CUC's last board meeting, regarding two streetlights in her neighborhood in Chalan Kanoa that were not working.

CUC vice chair Diego Songao also brought up what he said is a "ghost place" to describe Rota's main streets from Songsong to Sinapalu, because it is too dark. There are about five to six streetlights in that area.

CUC chair David Sablan Jr. said he has experienced that same thing and that CUC has to address this as soon as possible for safety reasons.

According to Fletcher, CUC has a program where CUC goes around marking down street-

lights that are working and those that are not.

When asked on who pays for the power consumed by streetlights, Fletcher said the Department of Public Works is one of the customers paying for streetlights and that DPW is responsible for the monthly payments.

"We do replacements but there is a physical payment issue and financial issue with the funding agency for streetlights," Fletcher told Sablan.

## Funding necessary

Fletcher said that there is no dispute with DPW and he fully agrees with DPW Secretary Martin Sablan that CUC is responsible for the maintenance of streetlights.

"As stated, CUC maintains streetlights. However, I recall that the 'responsibility' discussed during the last meeting related to payment for the installation of streetlights and the responsible party for monthly payments. As authorized by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC charges a monthly fee, based on the wattage and configuration, for maintenance, upkeep, and power usage for lights. We rely on these monies to operate the system," Fletcher said.

According to the latest data obtained, about 2,000 LED streetlights are on Saipan, 276 are on Tinian, and 516

are on Rota.

## CUC chair recommends "working together"

Sablan said that CUC and DPW must work together.

# Muna pleased with House decision to put off action on SB 18-52

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After a heated debate at the House of Representatives on a Senate bill that will turn the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s advisory board into a governing one, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said she is pleased with the House's decision to refer the bill back to the committee for further review.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* after the Tuesday session, Muna said that she is pleased with the House's decision.

Senate Bill 18-52, authored by Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), seeks to amend some sections of Public Law 16-51 to strip the governor of the power to appoint the corporation's chief executive officer and give that power to the board and also strip the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s CEO and other hospital executives of their voting rights during board meetings.

Muna said that PL 16-51 made the board an advisory

"We need to get together with DPW and just go down the main road on all three main islands and map out where streetlights ought to be and where the existing ones are and check if

they are functioning and mark it down for in a job order to be replaced," Sablan said.

"Focus is mostly on secondary roads because there are mostly children there. It has

nothing to do with funding. This is to get the plan ready so that money is then appropriated and then we could immediately go straight into the plan," he added.

one for many reasons and it was created with the health of people in mind.

"It's obvious the push for passing SB 18-52 is politically motivated because it lowers the qualification requirement for the board members and the directors of Rota and Tinian and that I'm not a 'Yes, sir' CEO. I pray the Legislature look at this bill and consider what's best for the CNMI and not just because 'Esther Muna is CEO,'" Muna said.

"If it's Esther Muna you want out and are truly not pleased with her performance, then PL 16-51 can remedy that. However, if you agree a CEO should not be changed with a performance that shows progress considering the lack of support from the board, the lack of funding given to CHCC, and the fact that it was in the state of disaster two years ago, then PL 16-51 can ensure that," she added.

Muna urged lawmakers not to change the law and remove the voting rights of the two critical decision makers "who know more about health care" and leave it solely in the hands of

individuals who don't.

"Let it be known that I never lobbied for this job and the governor and the board members know that. I was officially appointed in April 2014 because I had informed the governor and CHCC chairman that I will be leaving CHCC. Whether its Esther Muna leading this organization or not, the person selected to lead should remain qualified and committed and should not have to be easily influenced by politics. SB 18-52, I assure you, will change that," she said.

## 'Bill has nothing to do with her position'

In a separate interview, CHCC board chair Jack Torres said he himself recommended to the House to have the bill be referred back to the committee.

Despite the argument that went on at the Legislature, Torres said there were a lot of questions asked during the House session and that it is only fair that the questions be answered honestly and completely.

When asked if pushing for the passage for SB 18-52 was due

to Muna's position, Torres said it has nothing to do with that.

"The bill basically establishes a governing board so the bill doesn't remove her from her position. It has nothing to do with her position. Because of a resolution that was adopted earlier in May 2014, Muna will be evaluated," Torres said.

When asked if he has any background in health administration, Torres said: "That's not a requirement. Most public corporations in the NMI have a governing board and they are not composed of experts in healthcare and they oversee performance and make policies without the expertise," Torres said.

"What Muna said is her own opinion and it is not based on proven systems or structures," Torres added.

Aside from Torres, CHCC board members Pete Dela Cruz and Phillip Long support the bill as well. One other board member, Tony Raho, has made it clear he does not support the bill and said it should be further reviewed. Roy Rios could not be reached for comment as of press time.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS  
HOUSING CORPORATION**

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

*This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.*

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. NMHC has made amendments to the previous QAP's selection criteria and fees.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on **February 02, 2015, 10:00 a.m.** at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft **2015 and 2016** Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at [www.nmhc.gov.mp](http://www.nmhc.gov.mp).

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on February 2, 2015.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**



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HOUSING CORPORATION**

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## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

*THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.*

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** \$1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention **and rapid re-housing** activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

**Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.**

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **Friday, March 23, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 23, 2015, will not be accepted.**

**A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.**

**The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.**

**We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.**

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**  
Corporate Director



**TOY DRIVE**

Donors from different organizations pose with Karidat's acting director Lauri Ogu-moro, representative-elect Ed Propst, and former senator Ray Yumul after turning over the toys to Karidat in Chalan Kanoa. Over 40 bags and boxes of toys were donated for Karidat's clients' children and the Division of Youth Services children.

JAYSON CAMACHO

# Zoning to take on proposed crematorium and zip lines again

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Zoning Office board will once again review two proposed projects: a crematorium in Chalan Kanoa and a zip line in Marpi, both of which have

been scheduled for review tomorrow, Jan. 8, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Saipan Adventure Tours, LLC co-owned by Ron Hodges and Jason Shankweiler, is proposing to build a zip line in Marpi.

On July 10, the Zoning board expressed support for the project but asked the company to withdraw its application and amend it to conform with some zoning requirements.

One requirement from Zoning is the provision of parking

areas and a public restroom.

The other application up for review is a proposed application for a funeral home with crematory services by Carmen Safe-way Enterprises Inc. dba Borja Funeral Home, to be located in Chalan Kanoa.

At their most recent meeting in December, Zoning pushed back the application, noting that there were more materials for review, particularly whether it is safe or not and after finding out that not all residents and businesses within 300 feet of the site

were informed of the project.

Both will be discussed and are up for approval or disapproval Thursday.

For more information on the two proposed projects applications, call the Zoning Office at 234-9661.

## SIDE BAR

### Borja explains proposed crematorium to MCS class

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

Frances Borja of the Borja Funeral Home visited Mount Carmel School's Advance Placement Environmental Science class yesterday in response to students' concerns about the establishment of a funeral home and crematorium in Chalan Kanoa.

In a Letter to the Editor, the class wrote, "With our island's cemeteries becoming crowded, it is understandable that we need to come up with a solution." The students said, though, that they do not believe that a crematorium would be an "environmentally responsible thing to do."

"Crematoriums release vari-

ous gases and chemicals like dioxins, hydrochloric acid, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide. These gases and chemicals are released into the air," they said. "Because the proposed location for the crematorium is near schools, stores and residential areas, many people will be exposed to these harmful chemicals."

"Long-term exposure can lead to reduction of oxygen delivery throughout the body, organ failure, and ultimately death."

The environmental class explored Borja and the funeral home to relocate the crematorium to a less populated area.

Borja told the students in a one-hour presentation at the school that the Borja family has been operating the funeral service business for a long time and has seriously considered offering crematory services as an alternative option to sending off loved ones to the afterlife.

She noted that the business will not relocate, as the crematory service will not expose

the community to any harmful chemicals or gases.

Borja was joined by Glenn Lyle, vice president of the American Crematory Equipment Company, who clarified misconceptions pertaining to cremation.

Lyle also spoke of the process of cremation, the equipment used in a crematory, and the available technology to ensure an environmentally friendly crematory service.

According to Borja, there has been a divide on the issue; however, she assures the community that there is no cause for concern.

Borja said, "If I believe that there is reason to suspect that

the proposal we have put on the table will significantly impact our community, I would be the first one to strike it down."

The benefits, she said, outweigh the disadvantages.

Borja cited the mitigation of the cost of funeral services as one of the benefits to the island community if the crematory were to be established. She explained that land is also scarce and there will be a time when there will no longer be available lots at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Borja will be answering questions and responding to more community concerns at a public hearing for the proposed plan at the Multi-Purpose Center this Thursday.

### Police investigate photo showing detective, suspect posing

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam police have launched an internal investigation after

a photo began circulating online showing a detective posing with a suspect accused of

punching an infant.

The photo shows the officer in a vehicle with the woman holding a printout of her mug shot, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The officer, wearing a blue polo shirt and black sunglasses, has a friendly expression on his face but isn't smiling.

Internet users were sharing the photo on social media over the weekend.

*Pacific Daily News* said it wasn't able to verify whether the officer posted the picture—which looks like a selfie—on social media.

It's uncertain what department policies, if any, would have been breached.

The Guam Police Department has policies governing the release of information related to personnel, investigations, suspects and victims, police spokesman A.J. Bala-jadia said.

"Policy can be broken based on releasing anything, even on social media," he said without providing further details.

Guam law says the police chief must prepare a public statement within 30 working days of receiving a complaint about the conduct of an officer.



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**CUC-IFB-15-009**

**A-16 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

*The Project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 13, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-009, A-16 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 15, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address [birhen.martinez@cucgov.org](mailto:birhen.martinez@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**ALAN W. FLETCHER**  
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Officer

## ZONING Public Announcement

The Zoning Board and Office have amended the agenda for the Zoning Board regular monthly meeting on January 8, 2015, to remove item B(1). Therefore, the Conditional Use application for Borja Funeral Home will not be heard on January 8, 2015.

Thank you, and please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 if you should have any questions.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman



# Red Cross provides support to San Vicente fire victims

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter has stepped in to assist a family that lost many of their personal belongings to a fire that hit a house in San Vicente Village on Isa Drive early Monday morning.

According to NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh yesterday, they provided the victims--Sonny Flores, his wife Annie, and their two grandchildren--with food and clothing.

"That morning our disaster response team visited the victims and provided help to the victims and we also provided financial assistance," Hirsh said.

"The following morning [yesterday] we provided assistance again and we also provided accommodations and put the family in a hotel," he added.

According to Hirsh, the family will be staying at the hotel for a small period of time to give them a little "breathing room."

Hirsh said they might be providing the victims a month's rent in an apartment so the family could figure out a long-term plan on what to do next.

"In this case, our engagement with the family will be a little longer and if they need more we will try our best to assist them,"



A couple and their two grandchildren lost their home in San Vicente Village on Isa Drive to a fire early Monday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hirsh said.

He said the reason for the longer engagement with the family is because the damage was a total loss for the family.

"They lost all personal belongings and went through a tragic situation so if we can

assist them financially and/or mentally—because it is also an emotional situation—we would," Hirsh said.

He said they had also recommended to the family to see mental health officers that would help the family cope

with the situation they are going through.

"It is an offer that is part of our case management and provide them more support if they need it," he said.

Meanwhile, ARC also provided assistance to responders that took part in the search for a drowning victim over the weekend on Forbidden Island. Food and snacks were provided to the rescuers and responders during

the search.

"Our disaster response team is always out there to assist the victims if they are in need and particularly fire, the Fire Division would reach out to us and our team would immediately respond to help and assist the family in need," Hirsh said.

In a separate statement, the NMI Chapter said it is just grateful that no one was hurt in Monday's fire.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of our generous donors and community which gives us the means and resources needed to continue the Red Cross Mission of providing hope and relief to victims of disasters," said Paul W. Camacho, Emergency Services Director of the American Red Cross.

For information regarding the Red Cross, contact Camacho at 670-234-3459.

## New ROV set to explore Marianas Trench in coming years

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

To mine the discoveries waiting at the bottom of the Marianas Trench, a hybrid remotely operated vehicle is needed, according to Dr. Jeff Drazen, ecologist and co-chief scientist of a recent expedition over the Marianas Trench last November and December.

During the research, scientists deployed landers, which are platforms that hold sampling equipment like cameras, baited trap, metal grabs, or cores, to study the trench.

There were 92 deployments of these landers, according to Drazen, but to fully explore the trench, scientists would need a hybrid remotely operated vehicle, according to him.

He indicated that no such equipment currently exists. He said an ROV could be operated in real time through a fiber optic cable connected to a ship.

The United States' only HROV, *Nereus*, was lost in an expedition this year down in the Kermadec Trench north of New Zealand.

Drazen was aboard that expedition, and said *Nereus* died on a dive at 10,000 meters.

"The flotation imploded, and turned it into a piece of rubble on the seafloor," he said.

"When the *Nereus* went kaput, it basically kneecapped us. It kneecapped the United States' ability to explore the deepest part of the ocean. We have landers and they work great

but to actually explore and go around... to take that animal off that rock, that kind of interactive study was gone."

The Schmidt Ocean Institute is currently constructing a more advanced ROV for use by the R/V Falkor, the vessel used in Drazen's recent Marianas Trench expedition. In contrast to *Nereus*, the new vehicle will be optimized for remotely operated configurations, according

to SOI's website.

It will be equipped with two manipulator arms that will allow an operator to hold a fixed object like a rock, while also using the other arm to collect a sample, among other upgrades, according to the website.

"It's very likely we're going to be on Guam or Saipan in the next couple of years and hopefully this time with a vehicle," Drazen said.

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# Wrestling federation grapples with 200 lbs. of trash

The Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation wrestled nearly 200 lbs of trash from Forbidden Island beach through their recent participation in the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas campaign.

Three members of the federation and another beachgoer collected more than nine trash bags full of trash on Dec. 23, 2014, including plastic water bottles, Styrofoam, fishing debris, and a homemade raft.

"That alone was at least 120 lbs," said federation president Jason Tarkong. "We had to cut it up into pieces and use the rope and net to secure all the trash and haul it up together."

The team met at 8am to begin the cleanup and accomplished their task by 11:30am.

"Climbing back up that mountain made the weight of the trash twice as heavy," said Tarkong. "Almost three-quarters of the way, the plastic bags were falling apart from getting torn on tree branches and rocks, so we needed to break it down and make several trips up and down."

Tarkong also credited another island resident who joined their effort.

"John [Kepford] from the National Park Service arrived there as we were picking up trash and offered to help us when he realized what we were doing," said Tarkong. "We pushed hard

and got it done, [but it] felt like we climbed Mt. Everest. This was



From left, community volunteer John Kepford and Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation members Shane Alvarez and Vince Masga collect and haul nearly 200 lbs of trash out of Forbidden Island Beach on Dec. 23, 2014, as part of the "Beautify My Marianas" program administered by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

probably one of the hardest things I've ever done."

The "Beautify My Marianas" program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). (MVA)

Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation president Jason Tarkong, right, and John Kepford (not pictured) collect and haul nearly 200 lbs of trash out of Forbidden Island Beach on Dec. 23, 2014, including a makeshift plastic raft. From left are Shane Alvarez, Vince Masga, and Tarkong.



From left, Vince Masga, Shane Alvarez, and Jason Tarkong of the Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation collect and haul nearly 200 lbs of trash out of Forbidden Island Beach on Dec. 23, 2014.



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Chamber Installation Dinner on Jan. 24

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have no general membership meeting this month. Instead it will celebrate with its Installation Dinner on Jan. 24 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The Chamber will welcome its newest board members and will announce its 2014 Business Person of the Year. A silent auction will offer fabulous prizes! Tickets are \$50/person, and tables of eight persons are available. (SCC)

### Workforce training courses offered at NMC Rota

Northern Marianas College is offering Workforce Training Courses on Rota beginning Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, through Friday, Jan. 16, 2015.

The courses include Introduction to Computers; Keyboarding; Fundamentals of the Internet and Email Usage; Introduction to

Word Processing Applications; Introduction to Spreadsheet Applications; Creating Effective Digital Presentations; Workforce Ready: Personal and Professional Skills; Customer Service; Workplace Culture and Ethics; Communication in the Workplace; Time and Stress Management; and Getting the Job: Job Search/Resume Writing/Job Interviewing Techniques.

To register for these classes, call the NMC Rota Campus at 532-9513, NMC Saipan 237-6764, or email [barnaby.lizama@marianas.edu](mailto:barnaby.lizama@marianas.edu) or [wdp@marianas.edu](mailto:wdp@marianas.edu). (NMC)

### OVR relaunches website

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, in collaboration with the State Rehabilitation Council, has relaunched its website. The website contains the revised application forms for printing, the FY 2015 State

Plan, updates on the Re-Authorization of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Title IV of the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014), as well as links to its partner agencies. The public can access the numerous updates at [www.ovrgov.net](http://www.ovrgov.net). Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the OVR's programs and services, we can be reached via the following: P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 95950; Tel: (670) 322-6537/38 Fax: (670) 322-6536; TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-Mail: [nmidir@ovrgov.net](mailto:nmidir@ovrgov.net). (PR)

### Congratulations to GMS student

The whole Green Meadow School family is very proud of second grader Arro Solana R. Hunter for placing first in the K-2 Division of Primary Grade Forensic Competition held on Dec. 6, 2014, at Green Meadow School. Congratulations Arro! You are a true Falcon soaring high! (GMS)

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

#### January 7, 2009

##### Student, 17, hurt after colliding with car

A 17-year-old student was injured after he collided with a vehicle as he was crossing near the intersection to Saipan International School in As Lito Tuesday morning. The victim suffered multiple abrasions and lacerations to the face. He also sustained abrasions and complained of pain in the right arm, right leg, and neck. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that no one was cited in the incident. Ogumoro said that, according to traffic investigators, the boy did not use the marked crosswalk to cross the highway and failed to yield the right of way to vehicles. "Speed and alcohol were not factors in this incident. The weather was cloudy and the road surface, including the shoulder, was wet," Ogumoro said. DPS on Tuesday at 7:06am received a call about the accident that occurred along Martinez Road.

##### Woman allegedly stole, forged Tinian Municipal checks

The Attorney General's Office has charged a woman who allegedly stole and conspired with other persons to steal and forge checks belonging to the Tinian Municipal Treasurer. Marla Cruz Sablan, 28, was charged with theft by failure to make required disposition of

funds received and conspiracy. Sablan, a resident of Tinian, was summoned to appear and answer the charges in the CNMI Superior Court on Jan. 9 at 9am. Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch stated in the charging information that on July 22, 2008, Sablan purposely obtained Tinian Municipal Treasurer's check written to Pacific Telecom Inc. in the amount of \$931.04.

#### January 7, 2006

##### \$6.9M food stamps issued

The Nutrition Assistance Program issued more than \$6.9 million worth of food stamps in the CNMI in fiscal year 2005, based on the program's recently issued summary of expenditures. The report also shows an increase of 695 in the number of households receiving food stamps during the fiscal year. The report showed that, in fiscal year 2005—covering the period from October 2004 to September 2005—the program released \$6,955,411 worth of food assistance to needy members of the CNMI community. NAP administrator Walter I. Macaranas said Friday the outflow of benefits show an increase in the numbers every year.

##### Labor voids documents of fraud scheme victim

The CNMI Department of Labor has determined that an alien worker who is a victim of a fraud scheme have no legal basis to remain in the Commonwealth. Labor Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll voided any memorandum, permit, and temporary work authorization justifying the presence of respondent Ji Hongyan in the CNMI. Soll said Ji has no legal basis to be in the Commonwealth, but she may have a grace period in which to complete personal business until Feb. 20, 2006.

#### January 7, 2003

##### Reduced work-hour bill axed

The legislative proposal to cut government work by an hour daily did not sit well with the House majority, who sought to buy more time to iron out areas that the bill purportedly failed to address. Among the concerns the majority raised were the fate of civil service employees and autonomous agencies that would be affected. Members voted 8 to 5 to thumb down House Bill 13-242 or the proposed Retirement Protection Act of 2003 that was authored by House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider.

##### Two women sue PMC, drug firm for diet pills' ill effects

Two women have separately sued pharmaceutical giant Wyeth company, Pacific Medical Center, and its owner after taking diet pills that allegedly caused them serious heart ailments. Frances Sablan Benavente and Balbina K. Wabol filed the civil lawsuits against the drug company, PMC and its owner, Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou, yesterday at the Superior Court, according to their lawyer, Robert O'Connor. "Both these women were prescribed by a doctor on Saipan with 'fen-phen' diet pills," O'Connor said, referring to Al-Alou. "When they took these two diet pills in combination, their heart valves were damaged. These are the valves that pump blood."



# FBI warns public about 'platform trading' investment scams

Paul D. Delacourt, special agent-in-charge of the Honolulu Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is warning the public about fraudulent activity commonly referred to as Platform Trading, Private Platform Programs (PPPs), Prime Bank Trading, or Medium-Term Note Trading Programs.

In these schemes, perpetrators falsely represent their ability to offer above-average market returns with below-market risk through the trading of bank instruments. Offering such programs,

## BECQ revives Adopt-A-Beach program

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality through its Division of Coastal Resources Management is thrilled to announce the relaunch of their Adopt-A-Beach program.

BECQ is looking for groups to sign up and commit to cleaning a beach of their liking four times a year. The agency will assist and provide the supplies needed for the first cleanup.

"In addition, we will provide your group with information about the trash found and its potential hazards on the environment and further assist in the removal of trash col-

## » Attention: CNMI residents, businesses, organizations, communities, beachgoers

lected," BECQ said in a statement yesterday.

"For becoming an active steward of the environment and community, BECQ will recognize your commitment and hard work by featuring your group's photo in the BECQ and DCRM Facebook as well as on the BECQ website. We will also recognize all Adopt-A-Beach participants during the Environmental Awareness Month in April.

"Beach cleanups are a great way to bring awareness to communities and residents. We have to remember that trash is a result of human behavior. Litter anywhere on the island will eventually find its way to the reef. We can catch some of that before it hits the water by performing beach cleanups. But the best thing to do is make sure our trash finds its way into the appropriate receptacles and not the ground.

"Let us know what your favorite beach is and sign up to be an Adopt-A-Beach participant!

"If interested in adopting a beach, contact Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality at 664-8513 or stop by our office." (BECQ)

or claiming to have connections to such programs, violates numerous federal criminal laws.

The FBI has participated in numerous investigations of persons promoting Platform Trading investment schemes, and noted several common characteristics, including:

- Claims that investor funds can be placed in a bank account, and then used, without risk, to trade bank debentures, or other financial instruments;

- Claims that invested funds can be used to lease or rent U.S. Treasury Obligations and then use these same leased securities as collateral for further trading programs;

- Claims that trading Medium Term Notes ("MTN's"), Prime Bank Notes, or any other bank instruments, on a riskless basis, will yield above market

returns;

- Claims that letters of credit or standby letters of credit can be discounted or traded for profits;

- Claims that certain high-yield foreign trading programs are sanctioned or supported by the Federal Reserve, International Monetary Fund, International Chamber of Commerce, or other U.S. or international agencies;

- Claims about special connections to the Federal Reserve or some other internationally renowned organization such as the United Nations, the IMF or the World Bank;

- Claims of ties to benevolent, humanitarian or charitable projects;

- The need for extreme secrecy and nondisclosure agreements;

- Claims that banking and regulatory officials will deny knowledge of such instruments;

- Claims that these investment opportunities are by invitation only, available to only a handful of special customers, and historically reserved for the wealthy elite;

- Claims that the financial instruments are too technical or complex for nonexperts to understand.

In general, investment programs that purport to offer an introduction to secret investment markets, which offer above-market rates of return with below-market rates of risk, for privileged customers with special access, are fraudulent. There are no secret markets in Europe or in North America in which banks trade securities. Any representations to the contrary are fraudulent.

Some phrases are commonly seen in documents presented by fraudsters in the course of Platform trading schemes. If any of these phrases appear in documentation, the investment opportunity should be treated with suspicion. These "red-flags of investment fraud" include:

- Non-circumvention, non-disclosure

- Good, clean, clear and of non-criminal origin

- Blocked Funds Investment Program

- Private Placement Program

- Prime Bank Trading Program

- Medium-Term, Mid-Term, or Seasoned Note Trading Program or Platform

- Federal Reserve approved

- Roll Program

- Irrevocable Pay Orders

- Unconditional Bank Guarantee

- Prime Bank Notes, Guarantees, Letters of Credit, Standby Letters of Credit

- Fresh cut paper

- Top 100, 50, 25, 10, etc. European/World Banks

- Trading Platform or Platform Trading Program

- Insurance Wrap protecting investment value

- Paymaster who handles funds disbursement

- Exit-buyer

As noted above, the marketing of fraudulent investment schemes violates many federal and state criminal laws. Anyone with information regarding persons offering these Platform Trading investments should contact their local FBI field office. (FBI)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New NMC students pose with NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart, second from left, and NMC dean of Students Services Leo Pangelinan, fourth from right, during yesterday's student orientation for new students. Other orientation sessions are scheduled throughout this week for new students.

## NMC info session tomorrow, Jan. 8

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the free information session hosted by the Northern Marianas College tomorrow, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will be from 5pm to 6pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. The topics include the college's new bachelor's degree in Business Management, Prior Learning Assessment program, and other new initiatives.

College faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and

admissions, will also be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

The deadline for submitting admission applications was on Dec. 30, 2014, but the college is making an exception for those who attend the info session. Those who plan to submit an admission application for the spring 2015 semester must submit it at the info session.

Those who attend the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2015 semester. This represents a savings of about \$75.

The Northern Marianas College offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (empha-

sis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (new); associate degrees business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

## FSM Congress postpones January session

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**--Speaker Dohsis Halbert has postponed convening of the sixth regular session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress from Jan. 10 to convene instead on Jan. 23 in consideration of government activities in the states of Kosrae and Yap.

The regular sessions of Congress are in accordance with Public Law 13-59, which went into effect calendar year 2005, states that the Congress would meet in three regular sessions a year: Jan. 10, May 11, and Sept. 12. It further states that the duration of the sessions would be for a period of 20 days unless extended or shortened by resolution.

Halbert notified the President that in consideration of requests by members and inauguration ceremonies set for the newly elected government administrations of the States

of Kosrae and Yap, the January session will be postponed for two weeks.

The January session or the Sixth Regular Session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress will be the current body's final regular session. Special sessions for the current body can be called by either by the Speaker or by the President anytime between February and May 2015.

Congress is anticipated to address during this final regular session any and all outstanding measures pending before the committees and the body as a whole.

The sixth regular session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress as postponed will convene at 10am on Friday, Jan. 23, in the Congress Chamber in Palikir.

Congress sessions are open to the interested general public. (PR)



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## It's time for Congress to agree on a humane immigration solution

In this nation's never-ending debate over immigration, those who demand strict enforcement of existing laws are armed with a simple rejoinder: What, they ask, do you not understand about "illegal"? To them, the solution to illegal immigration is to identify those who are here illegally and deport them.

It's a reasonable point. A law should be enforced. But the argument can't be isolated from the realities of immigration, which is propelled by regional economic imbalances, familial connections and the basic human desire to live a better, safer and richer life. Those are powerful forces, unlikely to be thwarted by stepped-up deportation. Instead, under those pressures, our immigration system has crumbled, and strict enforcement has become impractical, even impossible. Congress can and should, but probably won't, fix it. That leaves pragmatism—which President Obama exhibited with his recent directives offering deportation reprieves for some 5 million immigrants here illegally.

Modern immigration policies date to the Reagan-era Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which granted amnesty to 2.7 million unauthorized immigrants who had arrived in the country before Jan. 1, 1982. The law also introduced some sanctions on employers who hire undocumented workers, among other reforms. Subsequent revisions made bureaucratic changes and sought to toughen up enforcement. Despite that, illegal immigration has more than doubled since the law was adopted.

Currently, the immigration system rivals tax codes for complexity. Under the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection is responsible for ensuring that only people with legal authority enter the country; Citizenship and Immigration Services processes applications for legal status; and Immigration and Customs Enforcement tracks down and begins deportation proceedings against those here illegally. The Department of Health and Human Services takes responsibility for the welfare of detained unaccompanied minors until decisions on their status are reached. All other immigrants caught by enforcement agents are overseen by ICE either in detention centers or under monitored release until their status is determined by the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, which includes both the prosecutors and the judges. Detainees are allowed legal help but must obtain it on their own (more than half do so, often for free from nonprofit organizations).

Those agencies are responsible for a population that is scattered across the United States, immersed in all aspects of American society. Who are the undocumented? Since it's difficult to count people who are trying to hide, the scope of the issue is hard to quantify. The most reliable, nonpartisan estimates put the number at more than 11 million people, of whom about 2.5 million live in California. Just over half the national total are from Mexico, with an additional 1.7 million from Central America, and together they account for more than two-thirds of all illegal immigration. An additional 12 percent are from Asia, primarily China. Again, accurate data are hard to come by, but reports suggest that anywhere from one-quarter to one-third entered the country legally, often on tourist or student visas, but never left.

See CONGRESS on Next Page



## The Empire wimps back

We forget that President BHO voted against sending ground troops to Iraq; he campaigned to shut down the operation of the Guantanamo Base prison unless it opened its determined martial persistence to civil law.

The politics of oil defines U.S. military engagements in Asia and Africa. The events after 9/11 were not just a nation's kneejerk response to a rude wake-up call. Bush II, egged by Cheney's gang, policed the world to ensure oil supply. Where corporate power sees gain in the extraction of black gold behind military might, BHO gets in trouble.

Now, it is not just the WH occupant but also a congressional report decrying intelligence agencies' practices after the 9/11 national frenzy that slid us into a War on Terror. Top spies discredit the Senate report, though it recommends no prosecution of wrongdoing. The UN, however, demands that those responsible for systematic crimes be brought to justice, with CIA and Bush administrative figures subject to arrest outside the U.S.

Mr. Obama affirmed what is essentially decent in the U.S.' stance. *We are a nation capable of accepting what we did wrong, say it so, and find ways not to do it again.* Not to do it again is futuristic; to hold one "accountable" so that someone is punished is blood hounding!

We are a reluctant empire, given that prerogative after the value of the American economy surpassed that of England following the U.S. Civil War. With the Monroe Doctrine, *norte, sud, y centro* America came into the U.S. sphere of influence. Also, oilfield! Maracaibo, for all practical purposes, was a Texas county across the waters!

China this year ascended to being the largest economy in the world. That should not come as a surprise; one in every five residents in the planet is Chinese. There are almost four-and-a-half Chinese for every American in the U.S., and China can claim the longest ongoing civilization in the world, a political unit more than 10 times the age of the 238-year experiment on socioeconomic polity that America represents.

We are not comparing China with the United States, a useless exercise akin to putting grapes and apples on the same count. We are after the behavior of an "empire," of a political unit that imposes its selfhood on other nations. American exceptionalism features in our stated manifest destiny to police the world!

China was imperial in its behavior in mainland Asia when Qin Shi Huangdi took the Warring States. After Admiral Zhang He's adventures more than a millennium later, the Ming Dynasty decided to fold inward; it joined the Great Wall to protect itself from northern marauders, called itself *Zhongguo*, the middle kingdom under mandate of heaven, and assumed the rest of the world would pay it homage!

The Middle Kingdom closed out with the Qing Dynasty even

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



as Imperial Japan hoisted its rising sun at the end of the 19th century, resulting in world wars that saw nuclear warheads on the second round before the TNT dusts settled.

The American Empire now foists the Keystone XL pipeline of dirty Albertan tar sands, with the wealth of majority leaseholders Texas' Koch brothers financing the down payment. WH Obama's executive will is not an ally; and although the dramatic decline of oil price is attributed to punish Putin's Russia, it might just reflect the market. Kuwait sits on a rich pool to the advantage of Anglo-American oil interests but the IS of Iraq actually does us all a favor by lowering the cost at the pumps to match production expense.

Of empires, a U.S. "imperial" feature is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare). We had universal health care in socialist Saskatchewan, Canada in the 70s. My optical practitioners advised me to care for my good sight, counseling that the use of fashionable sunglasses I wore deprived my eyes of the exercise it needed to adjust to dark and bright lights each time I went in and out of shadows. The ophthalmologist and optician did preventive medicine and they kept folks like me focused on health rather than on cosmetic accoutrement, or worse, on fear of traumatic care.

Obamacare is the first legislative attempt at universal health care since Medicare made it into law in the 60s. Anything "socialized" is an ideological specter in the corporate psyche and the ideology of fear prevailing in the U.S., so the Afro-Am "socialist" in the WH is not spared protest on his signature legislation.

BHO is not an empire builder; so far, he has been an empire dismantler. MIT Dr. Gruber's candor on the WH tactic to get Obamacare passed got the conservative nay-nay crowd into a tizzy. Yo! Lawmaking fudges on the edges when necessary. You win some, lose some, dude.

The American Empire ends, not because it's American but because it's dated. A new kid in the block smart phones and the democratic impulse goes far, calling Cubans "Americans", and welcomes them in America's summit.

The Empire wimps, long limps the Empire! Exceptionalism is dead; America lives!



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Let's talk stories, braddah!

**T**he inaugural revelry should ring with high decibels on Monday on Capital Hill. This as a query at the village level is asked: With significant revenue losses, would austerity, reduction in force or loan be implemented anytime soon to see us through the deepening economic depression?

Let's see what happens by March of this year. By then reality should kick-in full bore! It's a tough cookie to crack requiring major paradigm shift in spending habit. It isn't all milk and honey. There's definitely trouble ahead, fiscally.

Be that as it may, I wanted to discuss something other than the usual dish of misguided disposition of issues against "we the people." So I veered into beachfront properties of the indigenous people leased out dirt cheap.

When in doubt, check out the lease of Laulau Bay land to Kumho under impeached former governor Benigno R. Fitial. The only beneficiary was Fitial!

Our properties are used for hotel development since the late '60s. If you look around today, there's nothing left and more the reason we should hold on to keeping whatever we have left for posterity.

Moreover, who defines the "need" for more hotel rooms? Isn't the unintended consequence one of creating more jobs for foreigners over locals? Why the Field of Dreams in perpetuity? NMDs, do I hear your voice?

Let's slam the brakes or impose a moratorium on hotel development at least for a decade. It provides good breathing room to reset our buttons. I'm pro-growth, not wild over-growth! Don't we have a right to weigh in on this issue?

### Caution: 1K-curve ahead

The denial of renewal of some 193 permits by USCIS for Tinian Dynasty has subtle messages most political geniuses have missed by oceans apart.

## What happened to Islam?

**W**hat if I told you that Islam once produced the world's most scientifically advanced and intellectually productive civilization?

It's true, and you'll probably hear more about it, this being 2015, the United Nations International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, in which Islamic science will be showcased.

Many Americans might find far-fetched the idea that Islam spawned the most advanced and sophisticated civilization of its time—especially now that some Islamic sects slaughter thousands of innocents in their bloody campaign to spread tyrannical Sharia law.

Yet Islam's Golden Age, extending from the 7th century to the 13th century, flourished while Europe and Christendom wallowed in the Dark Ages. Western society was considered a backwater, if considered at all.

Islam generated impressive advances in medicine, chemistry, physics, mathematics, astronomy, optics and philosophy. It created cities, observatories and libraries, and it engaged in far-flung commerce well before Christopher Columbus set sail.

Credit Islamic genius for the magnetic compass and navigational innovation, for algebra and the refinement of the numbering system that originated in India, for papermaking and the scientific method. While Greek and Roman learning faded in the medieval West, Islamic scholars were preserving and enlarging it—long before the European Renaissance or Age of Enlightenment.

All this and more will be spotlighted during the International Year, which will open Jan. 19 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and will aim to raise awareness of light science and its importance to mankind.

And by doing that, it necessarily will have to highlight Islamic

I think it's a way of the feds reminding us that we can't have major activities where the military sets up shop. It's a geopolitical issue that has flown over our heads. Don't you think so?

Furthermore, it is ludicrous for senators from Tinian to attempt reducing the role of U.S. Homeland Security via a local law. It's called the supremacy of laws inherent under the Covenant Agreement. Please, I have sufficient fodder for comedy for the rest of 2015!

Finally, we wanted a grand casino for Saipan that would require some 5,000 to 9,000 foreign workers. Wasn't there a federal mandate to end foreign workers here in the next five years? I think it's time that we begin doing real time due diligence to see the forest for the trees. Humiliating!

### Indigenous who?

I don't know if we've found the term "indigenous" a good word to romanticize heedlessly or the superficial intellectual hip it showers upon disoriented "indigents" who utter it or both.

We must be so enamored by it thus the establishment of Indigenous Affairs, Carolinian Affairs, Women's Affairs and Community and Cultural Affairs. Wow! What an accomplishment!

But notice that there are more offices dealing with our affairs than fully thought-out plans and programs to advance the wellbeing of the indigenous people over the last 36 years? Sterling, huh?

Its use has been employed as political launch pad even for irrelevant political dinosaurs that brave walking around with old problems in suspect "new" hope with nothing innovative or decent to offer responsibly.

We toot our horns about indigenous rights to self-government yet there's the irony of having done nothing to responsibly ensure its solvency and efficacy! It's bankrupt! Is this your definition of a responsible indigenous self-government? Or does it feel good do-

achievements. For example, the opening event will focus on the multiple accomplishments of the 11th century polymath Ibn al-Haytham in optics, mathematics and astronomy. The Golden Age will get more attention Sept. 14 during a conference on its impact on "knowledge-based society."

So, what went wrong? How did Islamic society fall from one so open and inquisitive to the repressive and closed one that has produced few scientific advances and staggering intolerance?

Historians have offered complex and conflicting explanations that seem to fall along two lines: (A) It's our fault. Or, (B) it's their fault.

"Our" being the Christian, degenerate Western democracies: Our colonization and partition of the Middle East into nations of our own design. Our corruption of Islamic values.

But that happened well after the Golden Age began its decline. If anything, Islam needs to look to itself for the present state of disarray and violence. I'm no Islamic scholar, but a number of historical accounts indicate that the decline was the result of an internal conflict.

One branch of Islam valued inquiry and rationalism.

As a backlash, the other figured that the word of God needed no embellishment of the type that science, philosophy and other disciplines would bring.

Guess which one dominated?

The view that God was not the watchmaker who created and then stepped back and watched mankind run its course. God, instead, controls everything, from each flap of a monarch butterfly's wings to world wars. God wills each and every act, good or, in the case of applying vengeance, bad.

Reason, on the other hand, leads us to question and to seek other

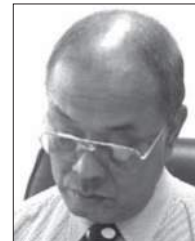
that ICE's National Fugitive Operations Program, which tracks down people who don't leave after being ordered to do so, spent about \$5,820 for each case it handled in 2011. Under ICE's Secure Communities program, which is being reinvented as part of President Obama's recent executive actions, the cost was about \$2,500 per case. Taking those per-case averages as (squishy) highs and lows, the cost of merely identifying those here illegally and removing them would fall somewhere between \$31.4 billion (nearly the total annual existing budget for the Department of Homeland Security) and \$65.2 billion. And that range is probably low, since once the government started to hunt the undocumented, many would hide even deeper underground, making it harder and more expensive to find them.

Moreover, those estimates also don't include new costs for detention (currently about \$1.8 billion a year to house 32,000 people per day) or adjudication (now a staff of 1,800 people and a \$330-million budget) that would come with trying to deport more than 11 million

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



ing the perfect indigenous screw against your very own? Where's the sense of responsibility in your citizenship as indigenous folks? Where's the truth in all the empty spouts about indigenous rights to self-government?

This issue needs greater organization and framework for discussion beyond political launch pad for brain dead political dinosaurs. I've been keen on this score given how quickly planned meaningful discussions have devolved into greed for power at our expense.

Now, take an ocular review how clueless political dinosaurs have obviously failed to restart fossilized career. Nice try! But then we also need occasional laughter as the guys and gals turn themselves into cheap laughing stock we use as fodder for comedy in coffee shops.

The issue has presented an even more serious query: How morally committed are you in advancing the rights of the indigenous people beyond empty political punditry? It would be interesting exploring such vital query to see through sure-footed indigenous prism what's up their sleeves. Shall we listen even to a perceptual wise man of the village? The issue in its raw form requires vision, leadership, and integrity. We must make consistency a forte to avoid the humiliating double talk. Enough of the BS already!

### By DENNIS BYRNE

Chicago Tribune

*Dennis Byrne is a Chicago writer who blogs at chicagonow.com. He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.*



causes, other explanations—a heresy when dogma decrees that God is the one and only cause.

Never mind the contradiction implied: if God controls everything, humankind has no free will, and thus cannot be held accountable for its actions. And the bad stuff that God inflicts on mankind makes no sense.

Aside from such theological puzzlements, a culture inspired by centuries of this thinking can only be stultifying and headed downhill.

Not that Western societies haven't had their own problems with the Galileos and other rationalists who crossed swords with the given wisdom. But somehow, reason and faith became separate paths in Western society, leading to the rich vein of invention, discovery and, most of all, the freedom that mark a workable, advanced culture.

Reason and faith can live side-by-side, as Western society has proved. But it's not always easy. Fanatics on both sides can be found wanting to stomp out the other. It's a danger to keep in mind in the Year of Light as the U.N. trumpets the achievements of a society that long ago strangled itself.

## CONGRESS

From Page 10

No matter how you parse it, all those people are here in violation of federal law, and are thus subject to deportation. Yet the size of that population is precisely what makes deportation on a grand scale impractical. In part, that's because if there is one inarguable fact about the government's approach to enforcing immigration laws, it is this: The work is expensive.

Department of Homeland Security officials have testified before Congress that their budget is sufficient to deport 400,000 people per year. Some analysts question that figure and point out that different types of deportation demand different levels of resources. For example, an undocumented immigrant turned away at the border is deported for relative pennies. The pursuit and capture of an illegal immigrant hiding somewhere in the country's interior is much more expensive.

The Congressional Research Service estimated two years ago

people. The Center for American Progress advocacy group estimated in 2010 that removing all the undocumented would exceed \$285 billion. Add to that the economic hit of removing so many workers—an estimated 8.4 million wage-earners, who pay local taxes and often contribute to Social Security.

The bottom line: It's easy to say, "deport them all," but to do so would be prohibitively expensive, not to mention disruptive for employers and, of course, wrenchingly hard on those who would be swept up.

The solution: a congressional fix to make the system more humane—by granting relief to many who have lived and worked in the country for years—and also more tailored to the nation's needs, including making accommodations for agricultural workers and others whose labors are desired here. It's a new year, and a new Congress, so who knows, maybe a legislative miracle can happen. Regardless, the answer is not "deport them all."

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times



# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph

▲87° ▼78°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph

▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

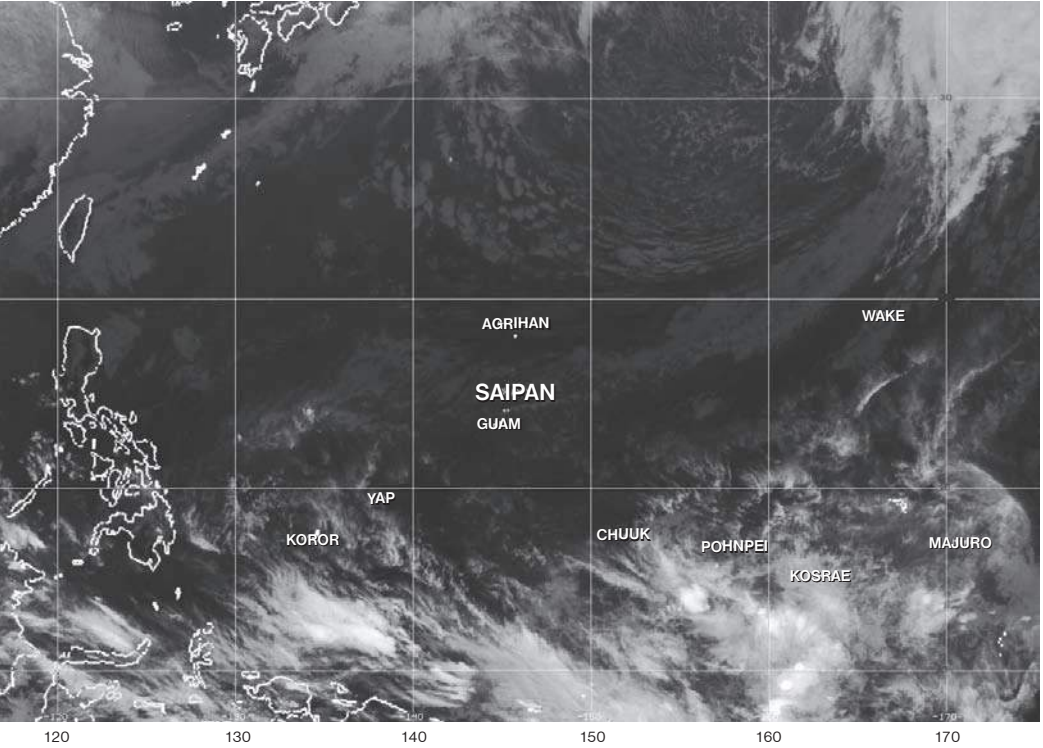
▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

## Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N167E to 18N157E then continues as a shear line across Saipan at 16N146E to beyond 12N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are along and up to 250 miles northwest of the cold front. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 4N130E to a circulation centered southwest of Kosrae roughly near 3N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along the equator are south of a line from 4N133E to 3N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are in several areas from just south of Pohnpei to near Kosrae or south of a line from 6N154E to 6N164E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the southern Marshall Islands between 5N and 2N from 164E to 180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstoms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼19
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼56
Honolulu	Sunny	▲75	▼64
London	Showers	▲52	▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲81	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼71
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲99	▼76
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
New York	Snow	▲27	▼25
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲40	▼21
Rome	Sunny	▲57	▼41
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲30	▼13
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼35
Washington, DC	Snow	▲38	▼27

### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
9:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	7:48 PM	7:55 AM
Thursday	8:36 PM	8:37 AM
Friday	9:23 PM	9:17 AM
Saturday	10:10 PM	9:56 AM
Sunday	10:56 PM	10:34 AM

**NEWS DESK**

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						



# Business

## Strong dollar makes world travel cheaper for Americans

**DALLAS (AP)** -- If you've been putting off a trip abroad because it's too expensive, start packing your bags.

A stronger dollar has reduced the price of travel, from a hotel room to a glass of beer, in much of Europe, Japan, India and elsewhere.

"This is one of the best times for Americans to travel in years," says Matt Kepnes, author of "How to Travel the World on \$50 a Day" and other travel books.

### WHY THE DOLLAR IS STRONG

Other economies are shaky, making their currencies less valuable. Europe is barely growing. Japan is already officially in recession. China's growth has slowed. Meanwhile, the U.S. economy has been chugging along, and the dollar has gained too. Many economists expect that steady U.S. growth will compel the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates later this year, making dollar investments more attractive and leading traders to sell other currencies and buy dollars.

### WHAT IT MEANS

Let's say that in June you had a charming dinner for two in Paris

AP  
In this Tuesday, March 22, 2011 file photo, tourists take pictures in front of Rome's ancient Colosseum. A strong U.S. dollar is making world travel cheaper for Americans in 2015.



for 75 euros. First, congratulations. Second, it cost \$103

then; today it would be \$89. Expensive countries may not be

cheap, but at least they're more affordable now.

## US oil falls below \$50 for 1st time since 2009

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- The price of oil plunged again Monday and fell below \$50 a barrel for the first time since April 2009 as evidence mounted that the world will be oversupplied with oil this year.

Benchmark U.S. oil dipped to \$49.77 before closing down \$2.65, or 5 percent, to \$50.04 a barrel. Brent crude, a global benchmark used to price oil used by many U.S. refineries, sank \$3.31, or 5.9 percent, to \$53.11.

In June of last year oil traded above \$107 a barrel. But rising production outside of OPEC,

especially in the U.S., boosted supplies just as weakness in the global economy slowed the growth in oil demand. OPEC's decision in November to maintain existing production levels accelerated the rout in oil prices.

Slower growth in China's economy, a driver of oil demand in recent years, and a strong dollar, which makes oil more expensive for holders of foreign currencies have also pressured oil prices.

On Monday Citigroup cut its forecast for 2015 global oil prices as a result of high supplies.

Citigroup analyst Ed Morse wrote in the report that the first half of this year will bring "a step-up in oversupply, more volatility, and turmoil."

Morse reduced his forecast for global crude to an average of \$63 a barrel for 2015, down from \$80 a barrel.

Drillers around the world have already begun to trim exploration budgets and delay new projects as a result of low prices, but production from existing fields will continue and keep supplies high.

The last time U.S. oil traded

below \$50 was April 29, 2009.

The low oil prices have led to sharply lower fuel prices for shippers, airlines and drivers. Morse equated the drop in global oil prices to a \$1.6 trillion stimulus package for the world economy.

On Monday the U.S. national average price of gasoline fell to \$2.20 per gallon. That's \$1.12 cheaper than last year at this time and the lowest since May of 2009. The Energy Department estimates the drop in gasoline prices will save U.S. households \$550 this year.

### BEST BARGAINS

Thanks to the pound's decline, England is cheaper than it was six months ago. But the euro has slumped more, making most of continental

Europe an even better bargain. Travel writer Kepnes says Greece is attractive right now because hotels and tour operators have been slashing prices to fill rooms. The same thing is happening in Portugal and parts of Spain.

"Be the contrarian traveler," Kepnes says. "If you want to go to Europe, consider eastern or central Europe, where prices are generally cheaper," he says. He recommends going during the "shoulder season" - late spring or early fall - rather than in the peak summer season.

### WHEN TO BOOK A FLIGHT

Demand for travel is so strong that most airlines don't have to cut prices to sell seats.

"The summer fares are still very expensive," says George Hobica, founder of travel website [airfarewatchdog.com](http://airfarewatchdog.com). But airlines might cut prices this spring if the strong dollar discourages Europeans and Asians from flying to and from the U.S.

### CONSIDER ALL THE OPTIONS

Hobica recommends checking foreign airlines. He says Etihad, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines and others sometimes offer better prices to Europe than U.S. carriers do, although they could include a distant stopover.

## Sony CEO breaks silence on 'The Interview' hack

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** -- Sony's top corporate executive on Monday condemned the recent hacking assault against Sony's film division by saying his employees had been the victims of a "vicious and malicious cyber-attack," while adding that he's proud of them for standing against "the extortionist efforts of criminals."

CEO Kazuo Hirai, who hasn't spoken about publicly about the hack before, opened a press event at the International CES trade show by saying he "would be remiss" if he didn't mention the controversy over the Sony comedy, "The Interview."

Hackers calling themselves the "Guardians of Peace" managed to cripple the computer systems of Sony Pictures Entertainment in late November, before subsequently releasing a trove of sensitive corporate and employee records. The FBI has since blamed the North Korean government of orchestrating the attack, apparently in ire over the film's portrayal of an attempt to assassinate North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un.

Sony initially said the film would not be released to major theaters in the face of threats by the hackers, but after the company was criticized for that decision, it scrambled to release the film to independent theaters and through streaming Internet outlets.

Hirai did not offer any new information about the hack, but he said Monday that freedom of speech and expression are "very important" to Sony and its entertainment business. He went on to thank the telecommunications and Internet companies who helped with the release, and "most importantly the people who have gone out to see the movie in theaters or through various online venues."

He also joked about another Sony film release, saying: "By the way, 'Annie' is also a great movie as well." Sony executives spent most of the CES event talking about new televisions, high-resolution cameras and other electronic gadgets that the company is introducing this year.

## Carmakers finish strong in 2014; are even better days ahead?

(AP)—Confident in the economy and cheered by cheap gas, Americans are likely to push new car sales to their highest level in a decade this year.

Analysts expect sales to reach 17 million for the first time since 2005. That's close to the record of 17.3 million set in 2000.

Low gas prices are giving buyers more confidence, whether they're buying their first subcompact or upgrading to a larger SUV. Gas prices started this year at an average of \$2.23 per gallon, down 33 percent from the beginning of 2014, according to AAA. The Energy Department estimates that lower gasoline prices will save U.S. households \$550 this year—

about four months of lease payments on a 2014 Honda Civic.

Popular new vehicles, like the Jeep Cherokee and Subaru Outback, are also drawing buyers.

Sales have now grown for five consecutive years—a rarity in the volatile auto industry.

While sales are growing, the pace has slowed from double-digit increases in 2011 and 2012. That's good news for buyers, who can expect to see bigger discounts in competitive segments like midsize cars as automakers fight to steal sales from each other.

Alec Gutierrez, an analyst with the car buying site Kelley Blue Book, thinks sales could stay in the 17-million range for

the next two or three years if interest rates stay low and the U.S. economy remains healthy.

December, with its holiday discounts and warmer-than-usual weather, brought buyers out in droves, with sales up 11 percent over the previous year. Automakers reported December and full-year sales Monday.

For all of 2014, sales were up 6 percent to 16.5 million vehicles, according to Autodata Corp. That was the biggest year for the industry since 2006.

Back then—as now—the Ford F-Series was the country's best-selling vehicle and the midsize Toyota Camry was the best-selling car. The top-selling SUV was the Ford Explorer,

but it was only No. 14 among all vehicles sold, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. In 2014 two smaller SUVs—the Honda CR-V and the Ford Escape—cracked the top 10 in sales as customers turned away from small and midsize cars as car-like handling and low gas prices made such vehicles more appealing.

Toyota, Fiat Chrysler and General Motors all reported 2014 sales increases, and Nissan, Subaru, Hyundai and Honda reported record numbers for the year.

Ford's sales were flat, but the Ford brand remained the top-selling brand in the U.S. Among major automakers, only Volk-



# Nation

## Face to face: Jury selection starts in Boston Marathon case

**BOSTON (AP)**—Some of the prospective jurors who could decide Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's fate got their first look Monday at the young man accused of bombing the Boston Marathon, and they seemed transfixed by the sight of the shaggy-haired 21-year-old.

Tsarnaev, for his part, rose to his feet and nodded, slightly and awkwardly, as he was introduced to the first group of about 200 citizens.

So began what could be weeks of jury selection in the nation's most closely watched terror trial since the Oklahoma City bombing two decades ago.

Security was tight, with dozens of police officers stationed inside and outside the federal courthouse along with bomb-sniffing dogs.

The potential jurors seemed riveted by Tsarnaev and by U.S. District Judge George O'Toole Jr.'s explanation of the gravity of what they will be asked to do if they are picked: They must decide not only whether the former college student is guilty or innocent, but also what his punishment will be if he is convicted—life in prison or execution.

The judge told the potential jurors not to think of the trial as "an annoying burden," but as a needed service and an "important duty of citizenship."

Tsarnaev is accused of planning and carrying out the twin pressure-cooker bombings that killed three people and wounded more than 260 near the finish line of the race on April 15, 2013.

O'Toole briefly outlined the 30 charges against Tsarnaev, which include using a weapon of mass destruction. He is also accused of killing an MIT police officer as he and his brother,



A federal police officer and K-9 dog patrol outside the federal courthouse in Boston, Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, for the first day of jury selection in the trial of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

now dead, made their getaway.

Tsarnaev, flanked by his attorneys, sat at a table at the front of the room. Wearing a dark sweater and khaki pants, he looked down much of the time and picked at his beard.

He nodded to the first group of potential jurors in the morning. When he stood for a second group of 200 in the afternoon, he looked down at the floor.

Over three days, a pool of about 1,200 prospective jurors will be summoned to court. Twelve jurors and six alternates will ultimately be selected. The judge said testimony in the trial will begin on Jan. 26 and last three to four months.

Heather Abbott, of Newport, Rhode Island, who lost her left leg below the knee in the Boston attack, said she plans to attend some of the proceedings. She said her biggest question may be an unanswerable one: Why?

"I don't know whether I'll ever get any answer to that question, but I guess I want to understand what the thought process was," Abbott said. "Why he would want to do this to people ... it's really hard to understand."

The unusually large pool was seen as necessary because of the need to weed out those unduly influenced by heavy news

## 2 men attempt most difficult climb in world at Yosemite

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Two men are roughly halfway through what has been called the hardest rock climb in the world: a free climb of a half-mile section of exposed granite in California's Yosemite National Park.

Tom Evans, a climber and photographer, has been chronicling Kevin Jorgeson, 30, of Santa Rosa, California, and Tommy Caldwell, 36, of Estes Park, Colorado, as they scale their way using only their hands and feet.

El Capitan, the largest monolith of granite in the world, rises more than 3,000 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor.

The men eat, stretch and sleep in hanging tents suspended to El Capitan's Dawn Wall. They don't have the creature comforts of home, but they have kept in touch with the outside world thanks to social media --tweet-

ing, posting on Facebook, feeding information for blogs and keeping in touch with a bevy of supporters on the ground.

"The guys are doing great," said Josh Lowell with Big Up Productions, which has been chronicling their climbs for the last six years. "(Monday) they are resting and trying to grow skin back on their fingertips so they can continue to do battle with the hardest climbing sections, which involve grabbing tiny, razor-sharp edges of rock," Lowell said.

If all goes as planned, the duo could be at the top as soon as Friday or Saturday, Lowell said.

"But that's best-case scenario. It could take several more days just to get through the difficult section where they currently are. If any weather moves in, that could also delay things, but the forecast is looking good for

now," he said.

Many have climbed Dawn Wall but the pair would be the first to "free climb" the section using ropes only as a safeguard against falls. The first climber reached El Capitan's summit in 1958, and there are roughly 100 routes up to the top.

Evans said the two have a cell phone on their ascent, but they weren't taking calls Monday because they were resting and "want no distractions while on the cliff." The two also weren't answering emails from roughly 1,500 feet above the ground.

These practices may not seem unusual, but the climbers have relied heavily on social media to document their adventure. Both update their Facebook pages regularly and tweet from the Dawn Wall, which has been called "as smooth as alabaster, as steep as the bedroom wall."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Police in California seek man who wounded 3, left baby dead

**LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)**—Police pleaded for the public's help Monday to find a gunman who shot the parents and uncle of a 3-week-old baby girl who later was found dead in a trash bin near the Mexican border 120 miles from her home. Investigators have no leads and no motive for the weekend attack, which happened in a densely populated working-class neighborhood of single-family homes, Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna said Monday afternoon. The baby's parents and uncle have spoken with police but have not provided sufficient information—a fact Luna called "frustrating," although he said it was too early to know if the family was withholding clues. Detectives do not believe the crime was a random act, and the FBI is assisting in the investigation, Luna said.

#### Suspect ordered to stand trial in ambush on state troopers

**MILFORD, Pa. (AP)**—A judge on Monday ordered a survivalist who called for revolution to stand trial on charges he fatally shot a Pennsylvania state trooper and wounded another outside their barracks, a case his attorneys acknowledge will be difficult to defend. The ruling came after a preliminary hearing for Eric Frein, 31, who is charged with first-degree murder and related offenses in the Sept. 12 ambush that killed Cpl. Bryon Dickson and critically wounded Trooper Alex Douglass. Investigators testified that they found the murder weapon along with a journal in which Frein described shooting the troopers. After the hearing, a defense lawyer, Bill Ruzzo, said his primary goal is to save Frein's life. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

#### NY court hears case of teen's brain kept for autopsy

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)**—New York's highest court was urged Monday to require medical examiners to inform families when they return autopsied bodies without certain organs. The case involves a New York City couple who buried their 17-year-old son after a 2005 car crash

coverage of the tragedy, along with the many runners, spectators and others affected by the bombings. Also, those who are unalterably opposed to the death penalty will not be allowed on the jury.

Tsarnaev's lawyers tried and failed to get the trial moved out of Boston.

The first two groups of 200 people each were given instructions by the judge and then began filling out long questionnaires. The questionnaire was sealed by the judge. Beginning next week, lawyers for the two sides will question potential jurors individually.

The trial is perhaps the most scrutinized terror case in the U.S. since Timothy McVeigh was convicted and executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

In Russia, the father of the Tsarnaev brothers again expressed the family's distrust of the U.S. legal system. Recently, one of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's sisters pleaded guilty in Boston to misleading police during a counterfeiting investigation.

not knowing his brain had been removed. Two months after the funeral, Jesse Shipley's high school class saw his brain in a labeled jar during a field trip to the morgue. The Shipleys got it back and held a second funeral. A jury awarded them \$1 million for emotional distress, reduced to \$600,000 by a midlevel court. Attorney Marvin Ben-Aron, representing the family, said at issue is "the common-law right of sepulcher," or giving next of kin the right to bury the body. "I'm talking about every facet of the body," he said. "In this particular case, we had to sue," Ben-Aron said later.

#### Hundreds line up for wake of ex-New York Gov. Mario Cuomo

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Hundreds of mourners waited outside a funeral home Monday in a line that stretched more than a block to pay their respects to former three-term Gov. Mario Cuomo, who died just hours after his son was sworn in for his second term. Vice President Joe Biden arrived in a motorcade late Monday afternoon. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, actor Alan Alda and former state Comptroller Carl McCall were also among the prominent arrivals at Cuomo's wake on Madison Avenue. Cuomo, 82, died in his Manhattan home on Thursday evening, hours after his son Gov. Andrew Cuomo was inaugurated for a second term.

#### Miami judge who overturned ban weds gays and lesbians

**MIAMI (AP)**—Lesbian and gay couples were wed in Miami on Monday by the same judge who approved their marriage licenses, hours before Florida's coming-out party as the nation's 36th state where same-sex marriages are now legal statewide. The addition of Florida's 19.9 million people means 70 percent of Americans now live in states where gay marriage is legal. The cheers in the courthouse reflect how much of the nation's third-largest state has changed since the 1970s, when Anita Bryant, the former beauty pageant queen and orange juice spokeswoman, started her national campaign against gay rights in Miami.



# Asia

## Search area shifts slightly for crashed AirAsia plane

**PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)**—The search operation for AirAsia Flight 8501 will spread slightly eastward on Tuesday as the weather and currents drag wreckage in that direction, the head of Indonesia's rescue agency said.

Bad weather has made it difficult to locate parts of the plane and recover the 125 bodies that are still missing, said National Search and Rescue Agency's director of operation Suryadi B. Supriyadi.

There were 162 passengers and crew on the Airbus 320 when it crashed Dec. 28. So far, 37 bodies have been recovered.

"Time is of the essence ... but it seems like it is hard to beat the weather," Supriyadi said, adding that divers trying to reach the wreckage Monday were

forced to return to their ships by strong current as rough seas continued to impede dive and search teams.

The debris found so far indicates the body of the plane broke into parts, he said.

On Monday, Indonesia's transportation ministry announced harsh measures against everyone who allowed AirAsia Flight 8501 to take off without proper permits—including the suspension of the airport's operator and officials in the control tower.

Routing permits for all airlines flying in the country will be examined to see if they violate the rules, said Djoko Murjatmodjo, acting director general of air transportation.

"Who knows if other airlines are also doing the same thing," he said.

The plane was traveling between Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, and Singapore on a Sunday. Officials have since said its permit for the popular route was only for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and that AirAsia quietly switched three of those days. Officials in Singapore, however, have said the plane was authorized to fly on Sundays from its end.

Applications for specific routes take into account issues including air traffic rights and airport takeoff and landing slots.

While the airline is being investigated, Indonesia has banned all AirAsia flights between Surabaya and Singapore.

AirAsia Indonesia President Director Sunu Widyatmoko said by text Monday that the

airline will cooperate with the government during the evaluation, but would not comment on the permit allegations until the process is complete.

Violations of the regulations would boost legal arguments for passengers' family members seeking compensation, said Alvin Lie, a former lawmaker and aviation analyst. But he added AirAsia would not be the only one to blame.

"The Surabaya-Singapore flights have been operating since October ... and the government didn't know," he said. "Where was the government's supervision?"

Murjatmodjo said individuals who allowed to plane to fly without permits would be suspended while the investigation is pending.

The ministry issued a directive Dec. 31 ordering all airlines to provide pilots with up-to-date weather reports before they take off, he said. Currently, it's up to the captain and co-pilot to research and evaluate flying conditions before departing. In other countries, carriers' flight operations departments perform that task for them.

After Indonesia deregulated its aviation industry in the 1990s, dozens of airlines emerged making air travel affordable for the first time for many in the world's fourth most populous nation. But accidents in recent years have raised questions about the safety of Indonesia's booming airline sector, with experts saying poor maintenance, rule-bending, and a shortage of trained profes-

als are to blame.

AirAsia, which began operations in 2001 and quickly became one of the region's leaders in low-cost air travel, has not experienced any other crashes and is widely considered a benchmark for safety and professionalism.

It is not known what caused Flight 8501 to crash into the Java Sea 42 minutes into what was supposed to be a two-hour flight, though Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency says bad weather appears to have been a factor. Just before losing contact, the pilot told air traffic control that he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic. No distress signal was issued.

## Myanmar Catholics pleased to welcome first local cardinal

**YANGON, Myanmar (AP)**—Church colleagues on Monday proudly welcomed home Archbishop Charles Maung Bo, a day after his appointment by Pope Francis as Myanmar's first Roman Catholic cardinal.



Bo

Bo, the archbishop of Yangon, was one of 20 new cardinals whose appointments were announced Sunday and who assume their new jobs next month. They are from 18 countries, including two others that never before had a cardinal: Cape Verde and Tonga.

The 66-year-old clergyman smiled broadly and exchanged pleasantries with friends and followers after returning from abroad to his residence in Myanmar largest city.

When he afterward went to the Missionary Sisters and Brothers of St. Paul's school, which he helps support, about 60 students and priests presented the archbishop with roses and came one by one to greet him and kiss his ecclesiastical ring. They serenaded him with a congratulatory song before holding a religious service.

He said he was happy to become the representative of Myanmar. "The pope just made the world know about Myanmar and this is really good for our country," he said.

Bishop Felix Lian Khen Thang, president of the country's Catholic Bishop Conference, said Bo's appointment was the crowning achieve-

ment of the church's mission activities in Myanmar.

About 1 percent of predominantly Buddhist Myanmar's 51 million people are Catholics. The church has been active in Myanmar—also known as Burma—for five centuries.

Bo's appointment comes as Myanmar grapples with major problems of religious intolerance, particularly by members of the Buddhist majority toward Muslims of the Rohingya ethnic minority. Related violence has taken several hundred lives in the past few years.

The archbishop wrote in a commentary for The Washington Post last year that: "If Burma is to be truly free, peaceful and prosperous, the rights of all ethnicities and religious faiths must be protected. A movement that has grown in volume and influence threatens this: extreme Buddhist nationalism."

Bo declared "there is a need for all of us—religious, civil and political leaders—to speak up to counter hate speech with good speech, as well as for the government to bring to justice those who incite discrimination and violence."

Benedict Rogers of the British-based religious freedom advocacy group Christian Solidarity Worldwide described Bo as "a man of enormous quality: courage, wisdom, compassion, humility, humor, hospitality and generosity."

## Four shot dead in Bangladesh on election anniversary

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—Clashes between police and opposition activists and a separate attack by unidentified gunmen left at least four people dead in Bangladesh on Monday amid heightened tensions on the anniversary of elections boycotted by a major opposition alliance last year.

Two men on a motorbike opened fire on a group of anti-government activists in northwestern Bangladesh, killing two, while two others died in separate clashes elsewhere.

The shooting took place in Natore district, 160 kilometers (100 miles) northwest of the capital, Dhaka, which has remained largely cut off from the rest of the country since Sunday, said Aminul Haque, a leader of the local unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Police would not immediately confirm the identities of the dead, but Haque said they were activists from the party's student wing. The identities of the two men on the motorbike were not immediately known.

Separately, police and ruling party activists clashed with opposition activists in the northwestern districts of Rajshahi and



AP

Bangladeshi people gather near a burnt vehicle, torched by Bangladesh Nationalist Party supporters and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Monday, Jan. 5, 2015.

Chapainawabganj, leaving two others dead and dozens injured, including police, police said.

In both cases police opened fire and used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwing activists who attempted to march, ignoring a police ban.

Similar violence was reported in the northeastern district of Chittagong, where the opposition said at least 300 party activists were arrested.

The Jan. 5 elections last year were boycotted by a major opposition alliance led by former Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia. Tensions heated up recently after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party said it would hold rallies to celebrate the anniversary, while Zia—her archrival—announced that anti-government protests would take place.

## Japan's leader says he will express remorse for World War II

**TOKYO (AP)**—In a year that marks the 70th anniversary of World War II's end, a question weighs on the minds of policymakers in Asia and as far away as Washington, D.C.: What will Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe say about his country's role in the war?

At a year-opening news conference Monday, he sought to reassure the world that he wouldn't veer from past official statements on Japan's wartime responsibility. Many analysts have speculated that Abe, known for his nationalist views, might downplay Japan's

responsibility for the war in a move that would roil relations with China and South Korea.

"The Abe Cabinet will uphold the general stance on history of successive prime ministers, including the Murayama statement," he said, referring to a 1995 apology made by then-Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on the 50th anniversary of the war's end.

He said the government would draft a new statement "that includes Japan's remorse for the war," though he stopped short of saying it would again apologize. Abe

spoke to reporters in the city of Ise after visiting an important Shinto shrine there.

The statement is expected to be issued around the anniversary of the end of the war on Aug. 15.

Seventy years on, the scars of World War II still poison relations in Asia, particularly between Japan and nearby China and South Korea, both victims of Japan's wartime aggression. Commemorative events will be held around the world, but here it's not just about remembering the past. The tenor of the events and the specific words chosen

by leaders in each country will have current-day implications for Japan's still strained relations with its neighbors.

That prospect worries the U.S. government, which fears more tensions at a time when China's emergence as a military power is shifting the power balance in a region where the U.S. military has long dominated the seas.

"We encourage Japan to continue to work with its neighbors to resolve concerns over history in an amicable way through dialogue," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters in Washington.



# World

## 97 people killed in Burundi fighting between troops, rebels

### Some 30,000 Germans protest against anti-Islam rallies

**BERLIN** (AP)—The square around the Cologne Cathedral was plunged into darkness Monday evening after the historical landmark in western Germany shut down its lights in a silent protest of weekly rallies in Dresden against the perceived “Islamization” of Europe.

The symbolic act came as thousands of Germans demonstrated in Cologne and several other cities against the ongoing protests by the group calling itself Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, which attracted its biggest crowd yet in Dresden on Monday night.

Cologne Cathedral provost Norbert Feldhoff, told n-tv that shutting down the lights was an attempt to make the PEGIDA demonstrators think twice about their protest.

“You’re taking part in an action that, from its roots and also from speeches, one can see is Nazi-ist, racist and extremist,” he said on n-tv. “And you’re supporting people you really don’t want to support.”

Only about 250 PEGIDA sup-

porters showed up in Cologne, as compared to about ten times that number of counter-demonstrators. Similarly in Berlin, police said some 5,000 counter-demonstrators blocked about 300 PEGIDA supporters from marching along their planned route from city hall to the Brandenburg Gate. Another 22,000 anti-PEGIDA demonstrators rallied in Stuttgart, Muenster and Hamburg, the dpa news agency reported.

But PEGIDA’s main demonstration in the eastern city of Dresden, a region that has few immigrants or Muslims, attracted some 18,000, according to police. The demonstrations there have been growing from an initial few hundred in October to around 17,500 at a rally just before Christmas.

Carrying signs with slogans like “wake up” the crowd chanted “we are the people” and “lying press” as they passed television cameras on Monday.

In uncharacteristically frank words in her New Year’s address, Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Germans to stay away from the Dresden rallies.

When the PEGIDA demonstrators chant “we are the people,” Merkel said “they actually mean ‘you don’t belong because of your religion or your skin.’”

PEGIDA organizer Kathrin Oertel slammed the speech at the rally Monday, telling the crowd “in Germany we have political repression again.”

“Or how would you see it when we are insulted or called racists or Nazis openly by all the political mainstream parties and media for our justified criticism of Germany’s asylum seeker policies and the non-existent immigration policy,” she asked the cheering crowd.

PEGIDA has sought to distance itself from the far-right, saying in its position paper posted on Facebook that it is against “preachers of hate, regardless of what religion” and “radicalism, regardless of whether religiously or politically motivated.”

“PEGIDA is for resistance against an anti-woman political ideology that emphasizes violence, but not against integrated Muslims living here,” the group said.

**KIGALI, Rwanda** (AP)—Days of fighting between Burundi troops and rebels who entered the Central African country killed 97 people, mostly rebels, Burundi’s government said Monday.

Army spokesman Col. Gaspar Baratuza said that 95 of those killed were members of a rebel group that entered Burundi from bordering Congo. Nine rebels were also arrested from the group that is yet to be identified, he said.

Two government soldiers had also been killed in the fighting that started a week ago some 60 kilometers northwest of the capital, Bujumbura, Baratuza said.

“We decided to bury the dead rebels in the gardens of residents of the area to avoid a human catastrophe such as diseases and the

stench that comes from the dead bodies but we are looking at how their remains can be moved,” the military official said.

Burundi’s government released information about the fighting after a civil society organization in Burundi accused government forces of quickly burying the bodies to avoid scrutiny from rights groups saying the government executed the rebels after they surrendered.

Vital Nshimirimana, the head of the local civil society platform Forum Pour le Renforcement de la Societe Civile (FORSC), called for investigations into reports that the army violated the rights of those caught.

Col Baratuza denied the accusations.

“No one was killed after surrendering or after being arrest-

ed,” he said.

Between 180 to 200 rebels were thought to have crossed from Eastern Congo into Burundi where they launched the attack, he said.

Eastern Congo is home to a myriad of armed groups and militias.

In 2009, the government signed a peace agreement with Burundi’s last rebel group, raising hopes of a return to a more durable peace.

The attack in Burundi comes ahead of a crucial presidential and parliamentary vote scheduled for May and June. The tiny nation is still on a recovery path after more than a decade of civil war that underscored long-standing ethnic tensions between the country’s Hutu and Tutsi people.

## UK public pressure dims soccer options for convicted rapist

**LONDON** (AP)—He’s young, experienced and wants to play—but Ched Evans is also a convicted rapist and it looks like public opinion may prevent the forward from ever resuming his professional soccer career.

Evans, 26, is out of prison after serving time for raping a 19-year-old woman in his hotel room in 2011. Yet the reaction in Britain to his possible return to the nation’s favorite sport is becoming more and more vehement.

The high-profile case raises questions about the role of rehabilitation and challenges conventional wisdom that a convicted criminal who has paid for his offense should be given a chance to work. The situation is complicated by Evans’ lack of remorse—he insists he is innocent and has never apologized.

Oldham, an English team that plays in the country’s third-tier League One, is considering signing Evans but major sponsors Verlin and Mecca Bingo said Monday they will drop the team if he joins. Thousands have signed an online petition opposing his return.

“I agree he’s served his time but it’s a very serious crime,” said Kath Woodward, a professor of sociology at Britain’s Open University who deals extensively with sports issues. “Remorse would go some way toward ameliorating the situation. It’s very disappointing that clubs like Oldham are trying to get a reasonable player cheap. It shows the management of football (soccer) doesn’t understand the changing times.”

She said society’s attitudes toward rape and sexual harassment have hardened considerably since the days when former

heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was able to resume his boxing career after serving time in prison for a 1992 rape.

“I can remember the idea you just have to put up with it, it’s part of life, but women now are not prepared to do that,” she said. “There’s a lot of public feeling against him coming back, a lot of public protests. The fans genuinely don’t want it.”

Oldham’s chief executive, Neil Joy, said Monday that discussions were continuing with soccer authorities on the topic but the club was not ready to make “any official announcement” concerning a possible pact with Evans.

There have not been any high-profile cases of convicted rapists returning to professional team sports in the United States. However, some professional athletes in the U.S. have been able to resume their careers after prison sentences, including NFL quarterback Michael Vick, who served time for his role in a dogfighting ring.

Evans was jailed for five years in 2012 but was released in October after serving half his sentence. The former Wales national team player said he would work to clear his name and that he wanted to return to soccer.

Sheffield United said in November that Evans would train with the club, sparking almost immediate opposition. Prominent Britons, including Olympic gold medalist Jessica Ennis, said they would drop their association with the club if they signed Evans.

The pressure worked—the club changed course after 10 days and said Evans would not be training there after all.

After that, the prospect that

Evans could play overseas was raised when a Maltese team said it would offer him a contract. But British officials said since Evans was a convicted sex offender this would likely be impossible. A Ministry of Justice statement said probation officers would have to approve any new job and would have to be assured of regular, face-to-face meetings, which “effectively rules out working abroad.”

Then Oldham entered the picture. But resistance has been fierce, with some 20,000 people signing an online petition opposing his addition.

Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd even took the unusual step of wading into the controversy. He said Evans’ “lack of remorse” and “failure to acknowledge” his crime should keep him out of the game.

“Ched Evans is a convicted rapist and, whilst I strongly believe in the principle of rehabilitation, it will send out entirely the wrong message if they offer him a contract,” Lloyd said.

Professor Simon Chadwick, who specializes in sports marketing at Coventry University, said Evans has become “a toxic player that nobody wants to touch.”

Chadwick said Evans made the situation worse by presenting his case to the public in an arrogant way that does not reflect the severity of his crime.

“Nobody wants to see somebody who has perpetrated violent crime against women be so easily allowed back in,” he said. “Normally you’d say, if he served his time, he should have the opportunity to re-enter the workplace and continue his work. But this is not a legal issue, it’s a socio-cultural issue. What this man has done is deemed by many to be unacceptable.”



Demonstrators stand in front of a banner with a crossed-out swastika to protest against a planned rally of so-called ‘Berlin Patriots against the Islamization of the West’ (BAERIGIDA) in Berlin, Monday, Jan. 5, 2015.

## France says ready to strike extremists on Libya border

**PARIS** (AP)—France said Monday its troops south of Libya are ready to strike extremists crossing the border, but the speaker of Libya’s internationally recognized parliament rejected any Western military intervention in his country.

International concern has been mounting over Libya, which is mired in its worst fighting since Western and Gulf-backed rebels overthrew dictator Moammar Gadhafi and killed him in 2011.

Today two rival governments are each backed by an array of

militias fighting it out across the country, and extremists in the east have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

U.N.-sponsored talks between the rival governments did not take place Monday as scheduled.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said recent development on the ground “have not been conducive in any way to holding a dialogue.” He said the U.N. is urging the rival governments to agree on the timing and a venue “that complies with the necessary security

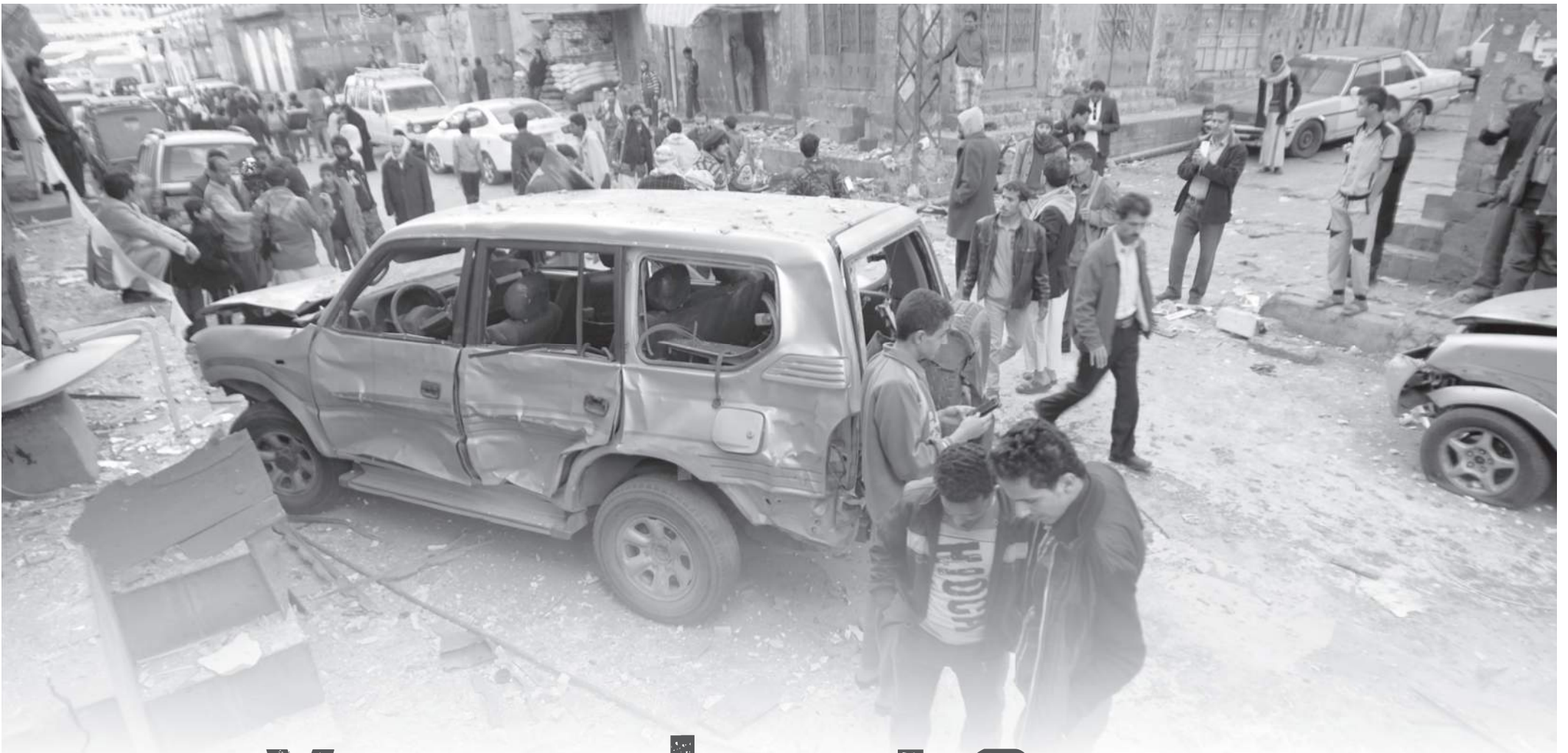
requirements.”

French President Francois Hollande urged the United Nations to take action to stem growing violence in the North African country and the transit of arms from Libya to militant groups around the Sahel region.

“We are making sure to contain the terrorism that took refuge there, in southern Libya. But France will not intervene in Libya because it’s up to the international community to take its responsibility,” Hollande said Monday on France-Inter radio.



# Focus



By MAGGIE MICHAEL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CAIRO** (AP)—Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen is surging in strength, finding new support and recruits among the country's Sunni tribesmen, in a backlash to drone strikes and the rise to power of Shiite rebels who have taken over the capital and other parts of the country, tribal leaders and Yemeni officials warn.

The militants' rise comes after months of being squeezed by multiple challenges. Early last year, U.S. drone strikes followed by Yemeni ground troops helped Yemen destroy a key al-Qaida base in the remote mountains of the impoverished, unstable nation. The past year, al-Qaida has also faced fierce competition from the Middle East's new militant powerhouse, the Islamic State group, which has sought to make inroads into Yemen.

But the expansion of the Shiite rebels known as Houthis has been a godsend for al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the branch of the terror network in Yemen is called. The turmoil in Yemen has taken on a sharply sectarian tone, pitting Sunnis against Shiites, to the benefit of Sunni al-Qaida. And while the group has lost some prominent figures in drone strikes over past years, deaths of members of prominent tribes in the strikes have pushed tribesmen toward the militants.

Over the long term, the United States' years-long campaign to put down the al-Qaida branch is likely to suffer, warns Bill Roggio from Long War Journal, which chronicles militant activities.

As al-Qaida gains ground locally in Yemen, that strengthens its ability to carry out attacks abroad against the United

## Yemen's al-Qaida thrives on Sunni backlash to Shiite rebels

States, its main priority.

"The local fuels the external. They will become more dangerous the more they draw local support," Roggio told The Associated Press. As Washington's ally in Yemen, President Abed Rabbo Hadi Mansour, gets weaker, U.S. ability to strike al-Qaida "will diminish over time after losing its partner," he said.

Backed by deposed President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Houthis pushed out of their enclaves in northern Yemen and took over the capital Sanaa in September. Hadi's government has been virtually under its thumb since. Houthi forces have since spread over eight of Yemen's 21 provinces, taking over security powers in many cities and towns, with government officials and forces split in loyalties, either stepping aside or grudgingly cooperating with them.

At first the fight between Houthis and their opponents was largely a split along political and tribal lines. But now as the Shiite rebels push into largely Sunni regions of central Yemen on a declared campaign to fight al-Qaida, the conflict has taken on a sharply sectarian nature of Sunni vs. Shiite, to the benefit of Sunni al-Qaida. The militants and their allies have responded with a guerrilla campaign of suicide bombings and other attacks against the Houthis.

Houthi power "is only increasing al-Qaida member-

ship," an al-Qaida member in Yemen told The Associated Press in an online interview. He said the group's strategy is to exploit the Houthis' overextension from their base in the north,

briefly took it over in 2012 but were driven out by Yemeni troops backed by local tribesmen. Now, because of resentment of the Houthis, some tribesmen are turning to back

that drone strikes have hit militants while they are fighting the Shiite rebels. Washington has spoken out against the Houthi power grab. Still, al-Qaida has sought to fuel that perception. In a recent online Q&A with reporters, al-Qaida in Yemen's military chief Nasr al-Ansi called the Houthis the "intelligence arm" of the United States.

Also turning to al-Qaida are members of the Islah Party, the Yemeni branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, after Houthi fighters defeated the party's militias during their advance toward Sanaa and the party largely sought political resolutions not fighting the rebels, said analyst Ahmed al-Zarqa.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula came to be viewed by Washington as the most dangerous branch of the terror network after it attempted two bombings on U.S. soil in 2009 and 2010, and the U.S. has been waging a fierce drone campaign against it for years. Inside Yemen, its strongest point came in early 2011 when it seized several cities in the south and created a virtual government of its own, with religious courts and administrators overseeing public services. But they were beaten back by a heavy Yemeni military offensive backed by the United States, scattering the militants into various remote strongholds.

In April, it suffered a new blow when Yemeni troops

backed by U.S. drone strikes took a major al-Qaida base hidden in the mountains of the south near the town of Mahfad. After that defeat, the group's "Security Committee" attempted to improve security for group's members by distributing leaflets to its followers with instructions on how to avoid drone strikes—advising them to run to a new position as soon as they hear a drone overhead on the theory that they have 12 seconds before a missile strikes.

The group also tightened its measures against spies, after capturing a number of alleged informants whom they executed, after putting them before cameras to give details on how they planted electronic chips on militants to help target strikes. New instructions to al-Qaida members advise them not to take gifts or laptops from anyone suspicious and new recruits are more strictly vetted now to weed out potential spies.

The group has spread to a presence in 12 of Yemen's 21 provinces including the capital, according to 2013 American Enterprise Institute report. The al-Qaida member speaking to the AP put it even higher—in 16 provinces.

Yemeni analyst Mohammed Abdel-Aziz compared Yemen to Iraq of the 2000s, when the rise of Shiites to power fueled al-Qaida's branch there in a brutal sectarian war. The group's aim is over time to erode the power of the government it sees as infidel.

"Al-Qaida has been biting the fringes of the Yemeni state," he said. "They keep biting the fringes, like small foxes attacking an elephant from all directions," he added.

*Al-Qaida has been biting the fringes of the Yemeni state. They keep biting the fringes, like small foxes attacking an elephant from all directions.*

"drag them into a long war, and force them to retreat."

The member spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized by the group to brief media.

The city of Radaa in the center of the country, one of the heaviest battlegrounds, showcases how al-Qaida is capitalizing on the fallout.

Bombings hit Houthi positions in Radaa nearly every night, killing dozens in past weeks. Local tribes give al-Qaida militants safe passage through their areas to strike the Shiites, said Ali Abu Sarima, a local tribal leader who opposes both the Houthis and al-Qaida.

The city is a longtime stronghold for al-Qaida. Its militants

al-Qaida, local tribal figures say.

"It's a matter of vendetta against Houthis. Tribes can even ally with the devil," Sheikh Ahmed al-Jabri, a tribal leader in Radaa, told the AP.

Residents increasingly see al-Qaida as "the last fortress protecting Yemen's Sunnis" against the Houthis, said a media official in the government of Bayda province, where Radaa is located.

"This will end up with blocs of Sunnis vs. Shiites ... while state power evaporates," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fear of reprisal.

He and others in the area said there is also a perception that the United States is working with the Houthis, amid claims



# Good Housekeeping

## Red turns up the heat on home decor

By VICKI PAYNE  
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

I just love how the color red brightens up my house during the holidays. This is more than a festive look for winter. Designers across the country are embracing red for home decor throughout the year. From wall color to accessories, the color is hot, hot, hot.

When I first moved to Charlotte 20 years ago, almost every house my Realtor, Gayle Daly, showed me had a red dining room or living room and sometimes both. Not a fan of the color at the time, I began to think it must be just a Southern thing. I ended up buying a house with a red dining room and quickly painting it brown.

Now we've come right back to red rooms not only in the South but across the country.

One of the most popular shades is known as true Chinese or Christmas red.

Now I'll agree that it takes a lot of self-confidence to make the bold move from neutrals to red, but the uplifting feeling it provides is worth the risk.

CR Laine used red in its High Point showroom at the fall furniture market in October, mixing it with green and white. The effect was refreshing and energizing. The walls were painted a true red with white woodwork. The floors were dark brown, and the well-tailored upholstery pieces featured green and white prints. A red leather accent chair and artwork completed the setting.

In a second stunning room setting at Laine, the walls were a calming aqua, and there were touches of red in the upholstery fabrics and artwork. For the



TODD SUMLIN/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/TNS

Vicki Payne is pictured in her home office at her Charlotte, N.C., home on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014.

more timid souls, this might be a more doable transition than painting your walls red.

Accessorizing with red has never been easier. From colorful red and white poofs and ac-

cessory pillows to glassware, retail shelves are brimming with this cheery color. Perhaps it's a response to all the neutrals that we have been surrounded with for the past three to four years. We're ready for vivid colors.

Red is timeless. One of nature's favorite colors, it surrounds us everywhere we go. From holly berries in our yards to red roses at supermarkets, it's easy to find a splash of red to bring into our home decor.

There are simple ways to experiment with red before you transform a wall or two. Start with a few red accessories. I recently purchased a set of red pottery bowls. I love the way they live up my Sunday supper table as well as the impact they have sitting on the coffee table filled with nuts and candies.

Try accessorizing your sofa with a red throw and some red

print pillows. Buy a red tray for your coffee table or ottoman. If you like the look, incorporate a red occasional chair. For real fun, check out your local resale shops for wooden dining chairs that you can give a fresh coat of red paint for your kitchen or dining room. Even a small side table or red lamp can introduce this exhilarating color into a neutral decor and brighten your winter days.

When you pack away the red bows and decorations after Christmas, consider keeping the red throws, platters and bowls out.

*Designer and home improvement expert Vicki Payne is host and producer of "For Your Home," available on PBS, Create TV and in national and international syndication. Reach her at ForYourHome.com.*

## Are you a savvy consumer? Take this quiz

By ANGIE HICKS  
ANGIE'S LIST

Are you a confident consumer, or do you have much to learn about the art of hiring smart?

Answer these five questions, and no matter how you score, you'll feel better about picking a contractor for your next big project. Look for answers at the end.

**1. When doing research before hiring, which action is most savvy?**

a. Asking a contractor for three to five references.

b. Asking a contractor for his or her three to five most recent clients.

**2. Which of these attitudes should prompt you to move on to another prospective contractor?**

a. "Am I licensed? Nah; that's just a regulatory hassle."

b. "Insurance? That would just make me more expensive."

c. "Skip the permit. No one will ever know."

d. All of the above.

**3. When checking that a contractor is properly insured for liability, which action is most savvy?**

a. Asking the contractor for a certificate of insurance.

b. Getting an insurance cer-

tificate and calling the insurer to confirm active coverage.

c. Confirming coverage directly with the insurer and then getting named as an "additional insured" on the contractor's general liability policy.

**4. Which statement is NOT an accurate description of a contractor surety bond?**

a. An agreement among the customer, the contractor and the agent that issues the bond, usually an insurance company.

b. A marketable, fixed-interest government debt security with a specified maturity date.

c. A way to guarantee that the customer can be compensated if the contractor fails to perform the services outlined in the contract.

d. A way to protect homeowners from shoddy work, project abandonment, property damage and any unpaid supply or labor charges.

**5. Which contract type is likely to be better for the average homeowner?**

a. Fixed-price  
b. Time and materials

**ANSWERS:**

1. b: Be sure your contractor has earned referrals, especially on recent jobs, since work quality can change over time. Online reviews on a trusted site are

a great info source, but consider the added step of contacting references and asking detailed questions.

2. d: Beware of a contractor who downplays the importance of covering your legal bases. Find out what, if any, trade licenses are required where you live. Make sure your contractor carries liability and workers' compensation insurance coverage. Check local permitting requirements. This is particularly important if you're making any plumbing, electrical or mechanical changes to your home, or planning renovations, additions or contract work that may change your home's structure.

3. c: While it's smart to ask to see a contractor's certificates of insurance, it's an even better practice--because paperwork can be faked or altered--to contact insurers to confirm coverage. Top-rated insurance providers recommend yet another step: having yourself named as an "additional insured" on the contractor's general liability policy. This ensures you're covered against other potential liability, such as a worker breaking a pipe that causes a neighbor's yard to flood. Coverage may cost little or nothing, plus

you'll be alerted if the contractor's policy lapses.

4. b: Smart consumers know that a contractor's bond can protect them in a variety of ways. Also, many states require that contractors be bonded in order to get a license. To determine if a contractor is bonded, ask for a bond number and certification. Take care that the bond and license are up to date.

5. a: A fixed-price contract is the most common type of home remodeling contract, and the type most consumers should demand from a general contractor. A fixed-price contract spells out precisely what a project will cost, including all permits, building materials and labor. It locks in the overall cost, preventing the general contractor from raising the price once all parties sign off.

A time and materials contract bills you by the hour for labor and materials. Some homeowners incorrectly assume this will save them time and money. In reality, it's like handing the general contractor a blank check, because the homeowner will pay extra costs that arise. An unscrupulous contractor has less incentive to finish in a timely manner. In fact, in California, time and material contracts aren't legal for home improvement work.

## THIS IS A HAMMER

### Schedule New Year DIY resolutions

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA  
(C) 2014 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

**Q: You've mentioned before that certain home-repair tasks should be handled during specific seasons. I can understand not wanting to fix the roof in cold weather, but shouldn't house damage be addressed immediately? -- Cliff in Mobile, Alabama**

**A:** While many home-maintenance tasks are better performed at specific times of the year, you're right -- damage should be repaired as soon as possible, particularly to a home's exterior. That certainly means a DIYer may find himself or herself tacking down a replacement shingle in frosty weather, or carefully thawing an ice dam that threatens to destroy a gutter.

But, say that several damaged shingles need to be replaced, or the gutter is in good shape but just needs some cleaning and a patch or two. More extensive maintenance and repairs should take place in warm months, so that patching material and roofing cement can cure properly.

That's why now, at the start of the new year, is a good time to rough out a home maintenance calendar. It doesn't have to be precise -- you don't have to block out exact days (unless you want to) -- but breaking down certain tasks by month, quarter or season can really keep your maintenance on track.

January and February, with cold temperatures, dormant plants and few holiday get-togethers to worry about, are good months to reorganize the workroom or garage, sharpen tools and mower blades, and draw up a budget for maintenance or im-

provement projects.

March through early May get busier: late pruning of shrubs and trees needs to be done before the last frost. Garden soil needs to be turned, fertilizer put down and lawns' bare spots reseeded. Exterior damage that didn't need immediate attention should be repaired now. Air-conditioning systems need their annual check-up by a professional.

The hot summer months, June through early September, are prime time for both exterior and interior maintenance and repair. Painting and remodeling are easier with the windows thrown open to allow fresh air in. Roofing cement cures properly. Balance all this with regular lawn care, and it's a busy time.

By late September, heating-system inspection and chimney cleaning need to be scheduled or completed -- ahead of the inevitable rush that comes during the first big cold snap. Gardens are harvested and lawns prepared for the cold months. Up north, it's time to put away lawn-care tools and set out marker stakes to keep plow trucks from churning up the lawn edges.

So, while you're making more detailed resolutions to take care of yourself and your family as the year begins, remember to make plans to take care of your home, too. The best New Year to you all.

**HOME TIP:** Home-improvement stores often offer seasonal maintenance tips, and your computer's office software may include a maintenance calendar template to help you get organized.

*Send your questions or home tips to ask@thisisahammer.com.*

## COMFORT FOODS

### Maple Pecan Graham Cookies

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES  
(C) 2014 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

These tasty (and easy) cookies will have you and anyone else who tries them smiling from ear to ear! Isn't it great that we can celebrate a New Year's resolution to eat healthier with a cookie?

■ 1/4 cup reduced-calorie margarine or butter

■ Sugar substitute to equal 1 1/4 cups sugar, suitable for baking

■ 1 egg or equivalent in egg substitute

■ 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

■ 2 tablespoons sugar-free maple syrup

■ 3/4 cup all-purpose flour

■ 6 tablespoons purchased graham cracker crumbs

■ 1 teaspoon baking powder

■ 1/4 cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.

Spray three baking sheets with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine margarine and sugar substitute. Stir in egg, vanilla extract and maple syrup. Add flour, graham cracker crumbs and baking powder. Mix well to combine. Fold in pecans. Drop by teaspoonful onto prepared baking

sheets to form 36 cookies. Flatten cookies with a fork.

3. Bake for 5 to 7 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove cookies from baking sheets and place on wire racks to cool. Makes 12 (3-cookie) servings.

■ *Each serving equals: 92 calories, 4g fat, 2g protein, 12g carb., 124mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Fat, 1/2 Starch.*



# Life & Style

## Taraji P. Henson as Cookie at heart of TV's 'Empire'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Taraji P. Henson is driving down an LA street, chatting on her cell-phone, when a billboard catches her eye.

"Hi, me! Hiiii!" she says, smiling at her latest on-screen incarnation: glamorous ex-con Cookie in "Empire," which premieres on Fox at 9 p.m. EST Wednesday.

Draped in fabulous furs and drenched in attitude, Henson's

Cookie is the heart of the Fox drama, a fiercely devoted mother and astute businesswoman who is fearless when it comes to getting what she wants. Her sometimes-reluctant partner is Lucious Lyon (Terrence Howard), a music mogul deciding which of their three sons should run the family's entertainment empire.

Henson has seen her face on billboards before, with dozens of film credits (including

2008's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," for which she earned a supporting actress Oscar nod) and popular TV series such as "Person of Interest" to her name.

"Sometimes I forget, you know what I mean?" she says. "I just go on about my day, and look up and go, 'That's right, I do have a TV show coming out!'"

The 44-year-old actress

pulled over to talk with The Associated Press about the new show and the empire that is Taraji P. Henson.

**AP: Who is Cookie?**

**Henson:** She is a hero. I mean, she is the truth. She is strong. She's family first. She's a lot of things. She doesn't compromise at all—never herself, and never her truth. That's what I love about her... She says things that I might not have the guts to say. I love how much she cares about her sons.

**AP: How is it working with Terrence Howard again, your old pal from "Hustle & Flow"?**

**Henson:** I just know that I really like working with Terrence. I trust him. And for me as an artist—acting, you really have to be uninhibited. You cannot have any hang-ups. Or if you do, they can't breathe and live through these characters, because their hang-ups aren't your hang-ups. So for me in order to fully explore characters without throwing Taraji in the mix, I have to feel safe... And with Terrence, I'm so safe with him, I can try anything... We're friends. We've known each other, so it really works for Cookie and Lu-



AP  
In this July 20, 2014 file photo, Taraji P. Henson attends the FOX Summer TCA All-Star Party at Soho House in West Hollywood, Calif.

## Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg kicks off own reading program

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Mark Zuckerberg wants to add a little more "book" to Facebook.

The Facebook founder and CEO announced on his page recently that he has vowed to read a book every other week in 2015, with an emphasis on learning about different beliefs, cultures and technologies.

Zuckerberg created a page called "A Year of Books" and urged his friends to join him in the project. As of late Sunday afternoon, it had more than 100,000 likes.


"I'm excited for my reading challenge," Zuckerberg wrote. "I've found reading books very intellectually fulfilling. Books

allow you to fully explore a topic and immerse yourself in a deeper way than most media today. I'm looking forward to shifting more of my media diet towards reading books."

The first book in his program, Moises Naim's "The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being In Charge Isn't What It Used to Be," was out of stock Sunday on Amazon.com and had a sales ranking of No. 123. "The End of Power" was listed among Amazon's "movers & shakers" Sunday for books making the biggest gains on the best-seller list.

"The Venezuelan-born Naim is an award-winning columnist, author and television host, a former trade minister in his native country and currently a distinguished fellow in the International Economics Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "The End of Power" was first published by Basic Books in 2013.

"It's a book that explores how the world is shifting to give individual people more power that was traditionally only held by large governments, militaries and other organizations," Zuckerberg wrote. "The trend toward giving people more power is one I believe in deeply."




**Timothy Lee Salas Wesley**  
*Lovingly known as Timmy*  
August 19, 1997 – January 3, 2015

In loving memory of a beautiful, passionate and warm soul, our son, big brother, grandson, great grandson, godson and friend will forever live on in the memories of all who love him.

The holy rosary is being said nightly at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. On Saturday, January 10, 2015, Timmy will be escorted to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:00 a.m. for funeral service and last respects. Eucharistic mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. followed by a Christian burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, Saipan.

Forever grateful,  
**The Family**



*In Loving Memory of*  
**†Malcolm Justin Palacios Maui**  
January 06, 1995 - January 04, 2015

*His memories will forever live in the heart of his*  
**Parents:** Kenneth Quichocho and Annette Palacios Cruz


*He will be greatly missed by his brothers and sisters and grandparents.*

*He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, relatives and friends.*

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated for the repose of his soul each evening at 6:00pm and Holy Rosary is being prayed at 7:00pm at San Jose Church, Tinian, CNMI.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2015. His remain will be escorted from Tinian Health Center at 8:00am to San Jose Church. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at Tinian Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,  
Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase  
**Kenneth Q. and Annette P. Cruz and Family**





# 2 more women join defamation lawsuit against Bill Cosby

**BOSTON (AP)**—Two women accusing Bill Cosby of sexual offenses decades ago have joined a defamation lawsuit, contending the comedian publicly branded them as liars through statements by his representatives.

The amended complaint was filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Springfield, in western Massachusetts, where Cosby has a home in Shelburne Falls.

Cosby is the only defendant in the lawsuit, originally filed last month by Tamara Green, who said he drugged and assaulted her in the 1970s. The two new plaintiffs are Therese Serignese, who said he drugged and raped her in 1976, and Linda Tritz, who alleges

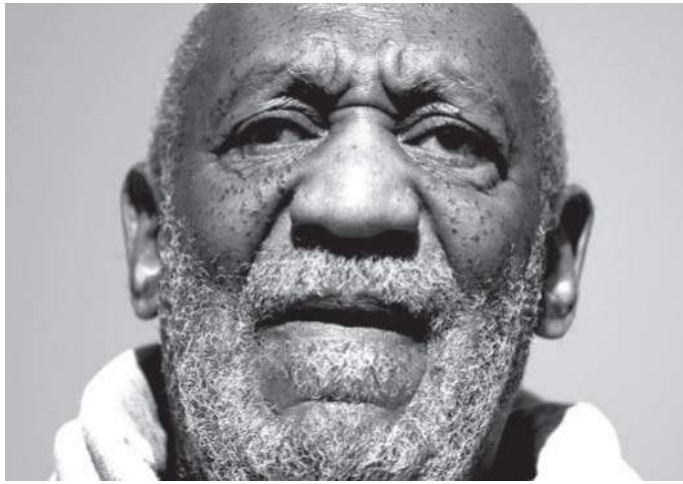
he tried to drug her and then sexually groped her in 1970.

Attorney Joseph Cammarata, who represents the three women, said the civil action allows them to have their allegations heard since criminal statutes of limitation have expired.

“The lawsuit provides an opportunity for women who claim to have been harmed to have their day in court in a forum where the truth can be tried,” he said.

Cosby’s publicist David Brokaw and lawyer Martin Singer did not immediately respond to requests for comment Monday. Singer has said he expected to prevail in the original lawsuit.

Green first spoke publicly about her allegations in 2005.



This Nov. 11, 2014, file photo shows entertainer and Navy veteran Bill Cosby speaking during a Veterans Day ceremony at the The All Wars Memorial to Colored Soldiers and Sailors in Philadelphia.

She said in the lawsuit that after she did media interviews

Brokaw and Cosby’s lawyer Walter M. Phillips Jr. made

statements intended to expose her to public contempt and ridicule. Phillips said last month he represented Cosby in 2005 but no longer does, and he declined to comment further. Brokaw did not return messages then seeking comment on Green’s allegations.

Serignese and Tritz, who are from Florida, allege in the amended complaint that when they came forward separately last November, Singer issued responses for Cosby that said they and other accusers were lying.

Since November, at least 15 women have come forward with claims Cosby sexually assaulted them decades ago. Most of the women say he drugged

them before he assaulted them.

Cosby, who starred as Dr. Cliff Huxtable on “The Cosby Show” from 1984 to 1992, has never been charged in connection with any of the allegations, and through his representatives he has denied them. A 2005 lawsuit by a Pennsylvania woman was settled before it went to trial.

Cosby’s career unraveled after his accusers came forward, with a TV project halted and nearly a dozen standup comedy tour performances canceled or indefinitely postponed. He’s scheduled to appear Wednesday in Canada, at a Kitchener, Ontario, theater, his first concert since a Nov. 21 show in Melbourne, Florida.

## Bess Myerson, the 1st Jewish Miss America, dies at 90

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Bess Myerson, the first Jewish Miss America and a New York political force until a series of scandals dubbed the “Bess Mess” forced her into obscurity, has died. She was 90.

Myerson died Dec. 14 at her home in Santa Monica, California, according to the Los Angeles coroner’s office and Department of Public Health Vital Records Office. Her death was first reported by The New York Times.

The Bronx-born Myerson was hailed as a Jewish, feminist Jackie Robinson—a groundbreaker for her religion and sex—after parlaying her stunning 1945 Miss America victory into national celebrity.

The 5-foot-10 dark-haired beauty, unlike her predecessors, accentuated her intelligence. Myerson landed a series of television jobs, from game show hostess to on-air reporter, before her appointment as New York City’s chief consumer watchdog in 1969.

The popular Myerson helped Ed Koch win the 1977 mayoral race, deflecting rumors of the bachelor candidate’s homosexuality—which he neither confirmed nor denied—with her constant presence at his side. “The immaculate deception,” cynics called it after the couple shared an election night victory kiss.

She made her own bid for office in 1980: an unsuccessful Democratic primary run for U.S. Senate. Three years later, Koch appointed her Cultural Affairs commissioner—an \$83,000-a-year post as the city’s liaison to the arts.

“People like to read about me,” she said in a 1987 interview. “They like to imagine themselves in my life.”

But Myerson’s carefully cultivated image crumbled in the mid-1980s under a barrage of political and personal embarrassments that became known as the Bess Mess.

A city background check ex-

posed Myerson as an insanely jealous woman who harassed an ex-boyfriend and his new lover. She repeatedly invoked her right against self-incrimination in a 1986 corruption probe of a subsequent boyfriend, Carl

“Andy” Capasso, who was born the year Myerson was crowned.

Capasso, a contractor with purported mob ties, pleaded guilty to nine counts of tax evasion.

Myerson, Capasso and Judge Hortense Gabel were indicted

in October 1987 on a charge of conspiring to fix Capasso’s divorce case. Prosecutors said Gabel’s daughter, Sukhreet, received a city job in return for the judge’s lowering of Capasso’s alimony and child sup-

port payments.

Before that trial began the next year, Myerson was convicted of shoplifting nail polish and earrings from a Pennsylvania store. A 1970 shoplifting conviction was also made public.

Although Myerson and her co-defendants were acquitted in the divorce-fixing case, the damage was done. She had already resigned her Koch administration post, and her public career was virtually over.

The Miss America Organization said in a statement Monday that Myerson would be remembered for her unwavering commitment to equality.

“Bess used her Miss America title to fight anti-Semitism and racial bigotry as she traveled around the country,” the organization said.

Bess Myerson was born July 16, 1924, the second daughter of Russian immigrants. Raised in a one-bedroom Bronx apartment, she was beloved by her housepainter father, Louis, and beleaguered by her strict mother, Bella.

By age 12, Myerson was taller and thinner than her classmates—she once played Olive Oyl in a school production. Her natural beauty soon emerged, and older sister Sylvia shepherded Myerson into the Miss New York City pageant in 1945.

Myerson won, advancing to Atlantic City for the Miss America pageant. Organizers urged her to change her name—they suggested “Betty Merrick”—but Myerson refused.

Her title, captured as the horrors of the Holocaust were coming to light, made Myerson a hero to her peers. Walking down the stage to cries of “Mazel tov!” from Jews in the audience, Myerson later recalled thinking, “This victory is theirs.”

Not content with the stereotypical role of Miss America, Myerson left an exploitive vaudeville revue and mounted a speaking tour for the Anti-Defamation League.

“Miss America’s brainy, too!” announced a Daily News headline about the Hunter College graduate-

turned-pageant winner.

Myerson remained socially aware through the years. She received the ADL woman of the year award in 1965, the same year she began a seven-year stint as chairwoman of the Bonds for Israel fund.

After surviving ovarian cancer in the early 1970s, she took the lead in battling that disease. She was appointed to committees by Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Her first break came on TV game shows. Myerson appeared as the “Lady in Mink” on “The Big Payoff” from 1951 to 1959 and as a panelist on “I’ve Got A Secret” from 1957 to 1968. She served as commentator for the Miss America Pageant from 1964 to 1968.

She changed careers in 1969, when Mayor John V. Lindsay named her the city’s consumer affairs commissioner. She stayed until 1973.

## Mark Twain plaque stolen from monument at New York gravesite

**ELMIRA, N.Y. (AP)**—Police are investigating the theft of a bronze plaque from a monument at Mark Twain’s gravesite in upstate New York.

The superintendent of Woodlawn Cemetery in Elmira said Monday the 12-by-12-inch likeness of the American writer was likely stolen between Christmas and New Year’s Day.

The plaque showing Twain’s image was one of two on a 12-foot-tall, 78-year-old granite monument commissioned by Twain’s daughter Clara. The other plaque, of Clara’s husband, was untouched.

Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens and grew up in Hannibal, Missouri.

The author of such classics as “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” and “Tom Sawyer” married Olivia Langdon of Elmira and had a summer home in the upstate city. He died in 1910 and was buried in the Langdon family plot at Woodlawn.



In this Sept. 8, 1945 file photo, Bess Myerson, of New York, holds the scepter after being crowned Miss America 1945 at the annual Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J. Myerson, the first Jewish Miss America who parlayed her stunning 1945 victory into national celebrity, died Dec. 14, 2014, at her home in Santa Monica, Calif. She was 90.



# Broadway's box offices say goodbye to a record-setting 2014

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Broadway ended 2014 with a bang—a big New Year's Eve holiday capping off the highest grossing calendar year in history.

According to the Broadway League, the total gross was \$1.362 billion and total attendance was 13.13 million for the year that just ended.

The total take was a 14 percent uptick over last year boost-

ed by premium pricing, making 2014 the highest grossing calendar year on Broadway. And there was a 13 percent increase in attendance over 2013.

A hugely profitable Christmas week led to the highest

grossing New Year's holiday week, with "The Elephant Man," "It's Only a Play," "The

Book of Mormon," "Aladdin" and "The Lion King" all breaking theater records. Crowds

also said goodbye to "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella," "Once" and "Pippin."

## Kevin Hart on Sony cyber-hack: 'It's not that serious to me'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kevin Hart says the Sony cyberattack will not have lasting consequences on him or the entertainment industry.

The actor-comedian, who was mentioned in a disparaging way in leaked emails, says "things happen" in business, but "it has nothing to do with the entertainers."

While promoting his Sony comedy "The Wedding Ringer" Monday, Hart summed up the attack as "a bump in their road," adding "it's not that serious to me. That's their deal."

In one email, Sony CEO Michael Lynton called Hart a "whore" for asking for compensation for tweets.

In a separate exchange, producer Scott Rudin and Sony Pictures co-chair Amy Pascal riffed about President Obama liking films with African American casts, including Hart.

"Ringer," starring Hart as a best man for hire, opens Jan. 16.



This Sept. 5, 2014 file photo shows Kevin Hart at Hartbeat Weekend Events - All Star Comedy Show at Chelsea Theatre at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas.

## Mariel Hemingway working on memoir and young adult novel

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Mariel Hemingway has a lot to say about the pain of being a Hemingway.

Regan Arts announced Monday that the actress has a memoir and young adult novel coming in April. The memoir is called "Out Came the Sun" and has the sobering subtitle "Overcoming the Legacy of Mental Illness, Addiction, and Suicide In My Family."

As noted by the publisher, seven members of the Hemingway family have committed suicide over the past four generations, notably author Ernest Hemingway, Mariel's grandfather.

Mariel Hemingway, known to many as Woody Allen's young love interest in "Manhattan," will offer "never-before-told stories" about her life and career, including experiences with "world-class" filmmakers and actors.

The novel is called "Invisible Girl" and is based on her childhood.



In this Jan. 20, 2013 file photo, actress Mariel Hemingway from the film "Running From Crazy" poses for a portrait during the 2013 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

## Jewel working on revealing memoir, to be published this fall

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Musician and actress Jewel is going back to the books.

She has a deal with Penguin Random House imprint Blue Rider Press for a memoir scheduled to come out in the fall. Blue Rider announced the currently untitled book Monday.



Jewel

In 1998, Jewel's "A Night Without Armor" became the rare poetry collection to sell more 1 million copies.

Blue Rider says Jewel will reveal a "far more complicated life" than previously known. She

will write about her childhood and career while offering writ-

ing advice and insights on being a mother.

The singer was born Jewel Kilcher. The 40-year-old star had one of the most successful debuts in history with the 1995 multiplatinum album "Pieces of You." Her other albums include "Spirit" and "This Way."

She has appeared in movies including "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story."

## Assault charge won't prevent Joey Bada\$\$ touring New Zealand

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—An assault charge in Australia won't prevent New York rapper Joey Bada\$\$ from touring New Zealand after authorities said Tuesday they didn't plan to revoke his visa.

Immigration New Zealand spokeswoman Rachel Purdom said the hip-hop artist had not been convicted of any crime in the incident and still meets the nation's good-character standard.

Australian police say 19-year-old Bada\$\$ punched a security guard and broke his nose after the guard asked him to prove his identity before a show.

Charged with assault causing bodily harm, Bada\$\$ appeared in court under the name Jo-Vaughn

Virginie Scott. He spent one night in police custody and was released on unconditional bail. If convicted, he faces a maximum prison sentence of five years.

"Joey can confirm that there was a misunderstanding with security at the Byron Falls Festival show, which resulted in charges being laid," the rapper's representative, Bradley Bledsoe, said in a statement, adding: "After fully cooperating with police, Joey was granted bail and entered a plea of not guilty to the charge."

Bada\$\$ is scheduled to perform this week in the Australian cities of Sydney and Melbourne before traveling to New Zealand to perform in Wellington

and Auckland.

New Zealand in recent years has strictly enforced character requirements for visiting celebrities.

Last February it banned Los Angeles rap group Odd Future after deciding the group posed a threat to public order. In 2012, it banned former heavyweight boxing champion and convicted rapist Mike Tyson from coming to a speaking engagement due to his criminal record.

Bada\$\$ will not be required to appear when the charge is next listed in the Byron Bay Local Court on March 19, court official Melissa Everson said. He is free to fly back to the United States and can be represented in court by a lawyer.

## Woman's illicit affair seems to upset only her sister

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister has been seeing a married man for two years. He has told her the only reason he is staying in this loveless marriage is for his daughter (standard lie of a cheating husband).

His wife found out midway through this "relationship," but forgave him when he swore he would stop, which of course he didn't. When I told my sister how wrong this relationship is and that she deserves better, I ended up alienating her.

I have recently learned that his wife just had a second child, and my sister is pregnant, too. I'm sick to my stomach with all of this. I told her how crazy her situation is, but she refuses to see how horrible "the man she loves" really is. She says she is fine raising this child alone, and if her lover is in their lives, then she will be satisfied with that.

I am the only one freaking out about this. How do I deal with it and not totally lose my sister?

FREAKING OUT IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR FREAKING OUT:** Your sister is an adult. She has made her choices and may have to learn the hard way what you have been trying to tell her. Realize that as much as you love her, you cannot live her life for her. Let her know you're there for her and the baby, because she's going to need all the support she can get.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 30 and my husband, "Brent," is 35. We have

had some financial troubles lately and recently had to move in with my mother-in-law.

My question is, how old should a child be before his mother quits walking around naked in front of him? My mother-in-law still walks around completely nude in front of Brent and his 39-year-old brother. Although she is in good health, she always seems to need Brent's help getting in and out of the shower.

She also parades nude in front of me, and it makes me very uncomfortable. I have talked to Brent about it a few times, and he said she's been this way his whole life.

Is this normal behavior? Am I overreacting? I have a daughter, and I don't get naked in front of her. How do I approach this without causing hurt feelings?

COVERED UP IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR COVERED UP:** Obviously, in the household that your husband was raised, this behavior WAS normal. I am puzzled, however, that your mother-in-law needs help getting in and out of the shower. What are the "boys" supposed to do—scrub her back?

Because her nudity makes you uncomfortable, the most tactful way to approach this would be for Brent to explain to his mother that you were not raised this way, and that you both would appreciate it if she'd wear a robe when you're around. It's worth a try.

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** If I sit at the end of a pew in church and someone comes in after me insisting I move because it's his/her "favorite" seat, should I do it or ask the person to sit somewhere else?

GOT HERE FIRST IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR G.H.F.:** If you're sitting in God's house, you should be on your best behavior. Don't commit a sin of omission; be an angel and shove over.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



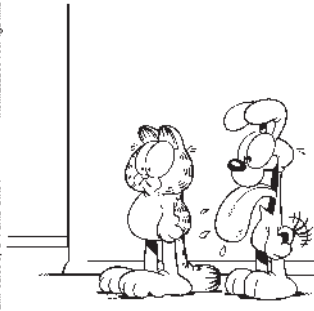
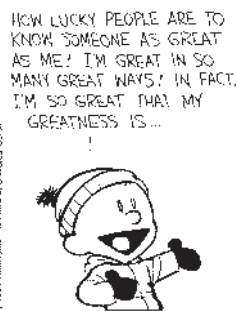
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

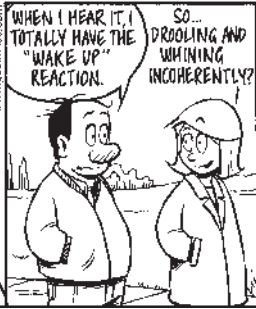
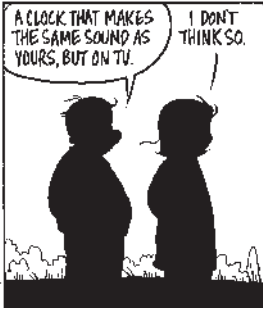
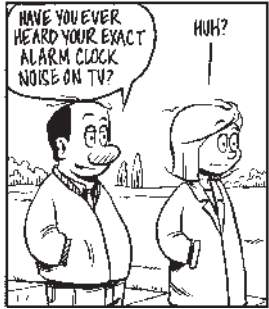


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Definite article

4 More, to Manuela

7 False god

8 Film director

10 Bizarre

11 "You betcha!"

13 "Syriana" Oscar winner

16 Make up your mind

17 Anticipate

18 "CSI" evidence

19 Singles

20 Singer Perry

21 Sensible shoes

23 "Abracadabra!"

25 Blind part

26 Departed

27 Debtor's letters

28 Macbeth's title

**DOWN**

1 Fortune-telling deck

2 Barber's concern

3 Splendid

4 — Vanilli

5 Apportion

6 Mediocre

7 Traffic sound

8 Layered minerals

9 Flip-flop

10 Id

12 Gossip-monger

14 Rams' mates

15 "Yippee!"

19 Cheerios grain

20 Set of parts

21 Show buoyancy

22 Hardy companion?

23 Blow off steam

24 Like a Cyclops

25 Alastair who played Scrooge

26 Nasty stingers

28 Number of teaspoons in a table-spoon

29 Visit frequently

30 Anglo—

31 Mom of Kim, Khloe and Kourtney

32 "—Impossible"

34 End

35 Silver or glass finish

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

R	A	P	S	P	I	G	C	H	U	D
O	R	A	L	I	V	I	L	U	R	E
T	I	L	E	C	A	M	P	A	I	G
C	A	V	E	R	O	N	L	U	N	E
T	O	T	G	U	S					
P	R	I	S	M	C	A	M	E	L	O
I	N	A	R	U	B	A	W	E		
C	A	V	P	H	O	R	P	I	P	E
A	I	D	P	A	N					
S	L	A	W	S	C	A	M	B	R	I
C	A	V	I	S	O	L	E	R	O	S
O	M	E	N	B	A	A	E	V	I	L
W	A	N	G	I	N	N	D	E	S	K

**Yesterday's answer 1-7**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jeremy Renner, 44; Nicolas Cage, 51; Katie Couric, 58; David Caruso, 59.

**Happy Birthday:** A change may not be welcome, but in the end you will see the value in being forced to make a move. Embrace the future with optimism and you can and will get ahead. Opportunities and greater recognition can be yours if you avoid dwelling on the past and focus more on moving into the future, where you can make substantial progress. Your numbers are 10, 14, 21, 26, 33, 37, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Look for a way to help others and you will be offered something in return. An innovative suggestion will open up conversations with people interested in hearing more about what you have to offer. Love is on the rise. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take action. If you share your plans first, you will face opposition and defeat. As long as you stay within your means financially, emotionally and physically, you will get what you want. Anger is a waste of time and energy. Stay calm. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Love, romance, travel and adventure will take your mind off any frustrations you face with a co-worker or employer. Enjoying what you have and the people you love will improve your mood and help you excel. A professional change looks inviting. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Consider professional adjustments and look for openings that fit your unique skills and in-

terests. If you like what you do and enjoy the people around you, it will make your life and job much easier. Make changes for the right reasons. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Share your story and you will find a way to turn what you have done and can do into a prosperous adventure. Your charm and ability to present and promote what you have to offer will capture interest. Love is amplified. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Refrain from divulging secret information or getting involved in gossip. Look for a way to invest or make positive financial changes that will ensure greater stability. A personal upgrade will work in your favor and result in compliments. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Stay focused on your responsibilities. A twist in your personal life may take you by surprise, but could open all sorts of new opportunities to improve your standard of living. Love is favored, and physical improvements are attainable. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll have trouble convincing others to think the way you do. You will get further ahead if you do things on your own. An unusual change at home will take time and effort, but will be worth your while in the end. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You've got plenty of energy and can accomplish a lot if you concentrate on using your skills and attributes with precision. Travel and communication will highlight your day and lead to romantic banter with someone special. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't settle for less when you want more. Concentrate on what you know and do best, and strive to reach your goal. The people you deal with may not welcome your drive and determination. ★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take on extra work and show everyone how capable you are. You will receive benefits that will boost your confidence and encourage you to apply your talents and skills to positions you may not have considered in the past. Love is highlighted. ★★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't worry about what kind of response you'll get. Be up-front, ask for what you want and negotiate a fair deal. Someone you least expect will offer you help if you are willing to make the first move. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are intelligent, attentive and encouraging. You are resourceful and exuberant.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/eugenialast).

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		3	5	2						
7					1			9	6	
6				3		8				
1		3			5	2				
	7			1	3			8		
		9	4			6	1			
	4				2	5			1	6
	6						2	9		
							7			

Difficulty Level ★★

1:07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	4	2	9	1	3	8	5
8	1	3	5	7	4	9	6	2
2	5	9	6	3	8	7	4	1
9	3	7	8	5	2	6	1	4
5	4	2	3	1	6	8	7	9
1	8	6	7	4	9	5	2	3
7	9	1	4	6	3	2	5	8
4	6	8	9	2	5	1	3	7
3	2	5	1	8	7	4	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★

1:16

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MALE FACIAL HAIR

Solution: 9 letters

L	I	P	Y	C	N	E	M	O	V	E	M	B	E	R
I	F	G	E	H	N	U	P	P	E	R	U	I	H	C
C	A	R	S	I	P	C	U	T	S	Y	T	C	R	S
N	C	O	L	N	G	O	A	T	P	A	T	C	H	T
E	I	W	S	S	R	O	R	O	H	A	O	E	O	E
P	A	K	T	T	G	U	O	T	P	I	N	B	R	K
J	L	Y	R	R	U	R	B	L	O	A	C	E	S	Y
E	L	H	C	A	D	B	U	E	N	N	H	K	E	D
E	S	S	H	P	B	O	B	D	D	C	O	A	S	N
L	K	I	E	C	S	E	O	L	A	I	P	G	H	A
E	E	L	V	L	R	A	L	T	E	R	S	D	O	V
N	E	G	R	E	H	U	S	D	R	A	E	B	E	P
G	H	N	O	A	F	U	M	A	N	C	H	U	C	E
T	C	E	N	N	O	C	W	O	D	A	H	S	A	E
H	A	I	R	M	S	R	E	K	S	I	H	W	F	K

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1/7

Alter, Beards, Cheeks, Chevron, Chinstrap, Clean, Connect, Cuts, Droopy, English, Face, Facial, Full, Fu Manchu, Goatee, Goat Patch, Grow, Hair, Handlebar, Horseshoe, Jawline, Keep, Length, Lip, Moustache, Movember, Muttonchops, Pencil, Pogonotrophy, Shadow, Shenandoah, Sideburns, Soul Patch, Stubble, Style, Thick, Trim, Upper, Van Dyke, Whiskers

Yesterday's Answer: Horseshoers

Purchase Treasury 15 & Treasury 16 in time for the holidays! Order online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com) or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. (Each contains 130 puzzles.)

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



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Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**  
2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

**Ocean View Terraces**  
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$600/month**

**Sunset View Terraces**  
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$550/month**

**Hilltop Condominium\***  
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft  
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **\$700/month**  
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **\$500/month**

**\*Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL**

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**Multimedia Communications Coordinator**

1. Primary responsibility is to oversee all media production and office communications.
2. Coordinate all aspects of print and electronic publication to include, but not limited to designing, editing, printing and distribution of interoffice memos, letters and informational brochures.
3. Perform as photographer at events, ceremonies and other activities for use in all media formats and coordinate professional photography upon request.
4. Assist in video and audio production for company events and activities.
5. Assist with planning, logistics, coordination and execution of event day responsibilities for events, ceremonies and other activities.
6. Coordinate film production team visits and execution.
7. Provide translation services for internal and external clients.
8. Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Job Requirements

Required:  
Bachelor's degree in mass communications (film, TV, advertising), journalism, or related field and five (5) years of professional experience in communications or related field, or the equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job. Proficient with desktop publishing software including Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Office software. Strong written and oral communication skills.

Preferred:  
Fluency in English, Mandarin, Cantonese.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

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**Classified Ads**

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**Classified Ads**

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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**COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION**  
PO Box 500135 Saipan MP 96950

**EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. CCC-14-001**  
**OPENING DATE: 12/24/14**  
**CLOSING DATE: 01/07/15**

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligibility list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

**POSITION AND SALARY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**LOCATION:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**POSITION SUMMARY**  
The Executive Director is responsible for the overall administration of the Commonwealth Casino Commission (the "Commission" or "CCC"). The Executive Director ensures that the Commission exercises its authority in compliance with Public Law 18-56 and other Commonwealth laws, Agreements, Rules and Regulations. He/She will be responsible for directing and managing the regulatory activities of the Commission to ensure the gaming industry performs in compliance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Casino Act of 2014 (Public Law 18-56) as well as industry best practices. The Executive Director reports to and is supervised by the Commission.

*Note: This job posting is intended to describe the general nature and level of work to be performed by the assigned person. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, skills or working conditions.*

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION**  
**Pursuant to CNMI Public Law 18-56 § 2315**

- A Bachelor's Degree from a United States accredited educational institution or equivalent
- Five (5) years work experience in professional, administrative or management in government or private sectors
- Good ethical and moral character
- Must possess a clean criminal history and must not have been convicted of any crime in any jurisdiction of the United States, or any foreign country carrying a minimum sentence of imprisonment of more than six months, excepting traffic offence
- Must not have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any business under the jurisdiction of the Commission

**MINIMUM BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS**  
Applicant must submit to and pass background screen, including, but not limited to drug and criminal record investigation. Certain information discovered could result in ineligibility for employment with the Commonwealth Casino Commission. The Commission will require a personal financial disclosure prior to making a final decision.

Applicant must be a US Citizen or US Permanent Resident. CNMI Government Excepted Service benefits will apply.

**INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS SHOULD REQUEST A COPY OF THE COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION.**

**CONTACT PERSON:**  
Ruth Ann P. Sakisat  
Commonwealth Casino Commission  
C/O The Office of the Governor, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
PO Box 500135  
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# 3 aces poised to lead Hall of Fame class of 2015



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz appear to be shoo-ins for election to the Hall of Fame in what is shaping up as the baseball writers' biggest class of inductees in 60 years.

When the Hall of Fame reveals the results Tuesday at 2 p.m. on the MLB Network, holdover Craig Biggio and perhaps Mike Piazza could join those three first-ballot pitchers who were utterly dominant in a hitters' era of artificially bulging statistics.

Here are some things to know about the balloting, conducted again in a period when who's elected is as intriguing as whose names were not checked by Baseball Writers' Association of America voters:

## THE THREE ACES

Johnson, Martinez and Smoltz stand out among the 17 newcomers to the ballot.

The reed-thin, scraggly-haired Johnson is a five-time Cy Young Award winner - four in a row from 1999-2002 - with 303 wins and 4,875 strikeouts. The Big Unit came up big in the postseason, too, sharing MVP honors in the 2001 World Series



with Arizona Diamondbacks teammate Curt Schilling.

Martinez's antics off the field were nearly as enthralling as an ever-elusive changeup that helped him to three Cy Youngs - two AL, one NL - and a 2.93 ERA in 18 years. He helped bring the Boston Red Sox their first World Series championship in 86 years.

Smoltz was a steady presence on the Atlanta Braves' staff for 20 seasons - including 14 straight division titles from 1991-2005 - winning the 1996



NL Cy Young. A career starter, Smoltz smoothly moved into the closer role for three full seasons and earned 154 saves. He should join former teammates Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, last year's inductees along with Frank Thomas.

The induction ceremony in Cooperstown will take place July 26.

## BALLOT LOGJAM

Not since 1955, when Joe DiMaggio, Gabby Hartnett, Ted Lyons and Dazzy Vance all

gained entrance into the Hall, have four players received the necessary 75 percent of the vote from the BBWAA.

Five were elected at the same time on just one occasion, and that was the initial Hall class of 1936.

With the ballot jammed by big names from the Steroids Era, the BBWAA has recommended to the Hall's board of directors that it increase the number of players each voter can select from 10 to 12. That change could come as soon as 2016.

## THE PED FACTOR

Suspected and admitted users of performance-enhancing drugs have been on the ballot since Mark McGwire was a first-timer in 2007. But the real debate over PEDs and players' credentials heated up when otherwise certain locks Barry Bonds and



Roger Clemens became eligible three years ago. Both glamour stars severely tarnished by steroid use accusations received about 35 percent of the vote last year, a slight dip from their first ballots.

Piazza, who received 62.2 percent in his second year on the ballot, and Jeff Bagwell (54.3 percent) are two players who have fallen under suspicion of use but were never caught up in any investigation. Will one more year on the ballot help them get closer to the threshold? Perhaps an enhanced ballot of up to 12 votes per voter next year will give them the nudge they need if they fail this year.

## CLOSING IN

Biggio, the Houston Astros second baseman-outfielder with 3,060 hits, fell two votes shy of election last year. Piazza, who

From left are Arizona Diamondbacks' Randy Johnson in 2008, Boston Red Sox' Pedro Martinez in 2003, and Atlanta Braves' John Smoltz in 2008. Johnson, Martinez, and Smoltz are among 17 newcomers on baseball's 2015 Hall of Fame ballot, announced Monday, Nov. 24, 2014.

has more homers than any other catcher in big league history, went up about 5 percent from the previous year. According to research by Baseball Think Factory, Biggio was up to 82.9 percent of the vote on 158 public ballots sourced by the website - that's about 27.7 percent of the vote, based on last year's totals. Piazza was at 76.6 percent late Monday afternoon.

Several others on the ballot of 34 candidates are hoping to get a better look. Tim Lincecum (46.1 percent last year), hit .294 with a .385 on-base percentage in a 23-year career for six teams. The prototypical leadoff hitter scored 1,571 runs and stole 808 bases. Career designated hitter Edgar Martinez received 35.9 percent, Curt Schilling got 29.2 and Mike Mussina 20.3 percent in 2014.

These players get only 10 years on the BBWAA ballot, recently reduced from 15 years maximum.

## NEXT YEAR

Next year's ballot should open up some after the election of this year's expected jumbo class and the amended voting rules. There is one sure thing in the 2016 group: Ken Griffey, Jr. He will be joined by Trevor Hoffman, Billy Wagner and Jim Edmonds as the chief newcomers.

# FIFA VP Prince Ali launches presidential bid vs Blatter

**GENEVA** (AP)—FIFA vice president Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan will stand for election in a bid to oust Sepp Blatter as leader of football's scandal-hit world governing body.



zation's seeming unwillingness to reform itself.

The 39-year-old Prince Ali declared his intention Tuesday to stand as a candidate in the FIFA presidential election on May 29 in Zurich, where Blatter has pledged to seek a fifth mandate at age 79.

"This was not an easy decision," the prince said in a single-page statement in which he pledged to run a positive campaign and did not specifically mention Blatter. "It came after careful consideration and many discussions with respected FIFA colleagues over the last few months."

"The message I heard, over and over, was that it is time for a change," said Prince Ali, who has been encouraged to run by European football governing body UEFA and its President Michel Platini.

During Blatter's 17-year leadership, FIFA has been rocked by bribery allegations in presidential and World Cup hosting elections, kickbacks paid to senior officials and World Cup ticket scams.

FIFA's image sank further last month when ethics prosecutor Michael Garcia resigned with a parting shot at Blatter's leadership style and the organi-

zation's seeming unwillingness to reform itself. Prince Ali said in his statement Tuesday that "it is time to shift the focus away from administrative controversy and back to sport."

"The world's game deserves a world-class governing body—an international federation that is a service organization and a model of ethics, transparency and good governance," said the prince, whose reputation is untainted since joining FIFA's executive committee on the day of Blatter's most recent re-election in June 2011.

Blatter has survived by avoiding personal scandal and deft political mastery of an often secretive organization he joined in 1975, before Prince Ali was born. The veteran Swiss official has said his mission to lead world football is unfinished.

FIFA member federations, which elect the president in a secret ballot, have also shown little desire to remove Blatter as they receive increasing shares of billion-dollar annual income from commercial deals tied to the world's most-watched sports event.

Prince Ali did not specify which five of FIFA's 209 members will nominate him for the presidency, as required before a Jan. 29 deadline. He was expected to travel to Australia for

the Asian Cup, which kicks off Friday in Melbourne.

He is likely to get support from much of Europe and parts of the Asian Football Confederation. However, he is far from certain to get a majority of support from the Asian confederation, which is led by Sheik Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The AFC did not immediately reply to calls or emails seeking comment.

AFC president Sheik Salman pledged his support for Blatter at the confederation's 60th anniversary celebrations at Manila in November, confirming earlier support from the AFC congress in June.

"It was a unanimous decision," Salman said at the time. "After making the decision, we have to support it. We never go back on our words and commitments, that's how we are."

Prince Ali has led Jordan's football federation since 1999 and the following year founded the West Asian Football Federation.

At FIFA, he led the successful campaign to lift a ban on female Islamic players wearing headscarves in its competitions.

Prince Ali's work in international sport, focusing on youth and women's football, follow a tradition of Jordan's royal family. He is the son of the late King Hussein and the late Queen Alia, who died in a helicopter crash in 1977

# Caldwell calls for improved use of technology in officiating



**ALLEN PARK, Mich.** (AP)—

The disputed call in the fourth quarter of Detroit's playoff loss at Dallas was not subject to a replay review.

Lions coach Jim Caldwell wonders if it's time to change that.

"I think without question it was probably not officiated correctly in my estimation," Caldwell said Monday, a day after Detroit's 24-20 loss. "Nevertheless, I do think in this day and age, with modern times where we have technology that can take out the human factor in certain key situations in big games, that we should use that technology to do so."

With the Lions up 20-17 and in Dallas territory, referee Pete Morelli initially announced a pass interference penalty on Cowboys linebacker Anthony Hitchens. Then officials reversed themselves, leaving Detroit facing fourth down.

The Lions punted, and Dallas drove for the winning touchdown.

"I'm angry about it, and trying to keep my composure here, but I'm probably angry for our team, and the fans," Caldwell said. "That's the thing that stirs your blood."

Coaches aren't allowed to signal for replay reviews of potential pass interference calls, but Caldwell indicated Monday he'd like to see the league allow more reviews if possible.

"For the sake of time, and those kinds of things in a game ... you have to have some boundaries," Caldwell said. "I do think that particularly in big games and down the stretch, and playoffs, and things of that nature, I'm not certain there should be a limit on when you can review."

Caldwell said the league reached out to him after the game, although he did not say what was discussed.

Dean Blandino, the league's director of officials, told The Associated Press on Monday that there have been proposals to expand the use of replay reviews for personal fouls. There also have been propos-

als to allow coaches to challenge any call.

"The history always has been ever since the first iteration of replay is that we were dealing with fact and not judgment," he said. Subjective calls ... that was something the competition committee felt should not be part of replay and that has been the guideline ever since.

"Recently there has been more conversation about adding some of those subjective calls to reviewable plays with the technology we have now."

On the play Sunday, Morelli said the head linesman believed there wasn't enough contact for a penalty, so none was called even though the back judge had thrown a flag.

"I just think that we're all human and we're all affected by our surroundings, environment, big game, issues, noise, etc.," Caldwell said. "It's going to be hard for anybody to convince me otherwise, and I think in that particular case we should try to take as much of the human factor out as we possibly can."



# 76ers end 14-game home skid with win vs Cavs



Philadelphia 76ers' Michael Carter-Williams, center, tries to steal the ball from Cleveland Cavaliers' Matthew Dellavedova, right, of Australia, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won, 95-92.



**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Tony Wroten scored 20 points and hit the go-ahead layup with 9.1 seconds left to lift Philadelphia over short-handed Cleveland, 95-92.

Philadelphia had been 0-14 at home this season.

Kevin Love had 28 points and 19 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who didn't have LeBron James and Kyrie Irving because of injuries. They lost Dion Waiters and two reserves shortly before tipoff because of a three-way trade with New York and Oklahoma City.

After the Cavaliers blew all of a 17-point lead, Love made it 92-90 with a pair of free throws with 1:09 left.

Wroten made one of two free throws, then scored the go-ahead layup to help the Sixers end their home-losing streak.

Michael Carter-Williams had 18 points and 13 assists for the Sixers.

## Mavericks 96, Nets 88

In New York, Dirk Nowitzki made a clinching 3-pointer in overtime that moved him into seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Brooklyn Nets 96-88 on Monday night to match their season high with a sixth straight victory.

Monta Ellis scored 19 points and made a pair of jumpers early in overtime before consecutive 3-pointers by Chandler Parsons and Nowitzki made it 96-88 with 34 seconds to play. That gave Nowitzki 15 points for the game and 27,412 in his career, moving him past Moses Malone into the No. 7 spot.

Rajon Rondo shot 1 of 13 for two points but had 14 assists and 10 rebounds for the Maver-

icks, who have the longest current winning streak in the NBA. Tyson Chandler finished with 14 points and 13 boards.

Brook Lopez had 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Nets but faded after an 18-point first quarter. Jarrett Jack had 20 points and 10 assists.

## Bulls 114, Rockets 105

In Chicago, Pau Gasol had 27 points and 14 rebounds, Jimmy Butler scored 22 and Chicago rallied for its 13th win in 15 games.

Derrick Rose added 19 points, Nikola Mirotic had 17 and the Bulls outscored the Rockets 19-5 over the final 3:19.

Josh Smith led Houston with 21 points. James Harden scored 20, but the Rockets lost for the fourth time in six games.

Butler scored five points and took a charge against Harden during the game-ending rally to help the Bulls wipe out a five-point deficit.

Mirotic also hit a 3 and scored five points during that stretch.

## Grizzlies 105, Knicks 83

In Memphis, Mike Conley scored 14 of his 22 points in the third quarter, and Memphis sent depleted New York to its record-tying 12th straight loss.

The Knicks (5-32), who have the NBA's worst winning percentage, lost for the 22nd time in 23 games.

New York played without injured starters Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire. The Knicks were also missing J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert, who were traded to Cleveland.

Reserve forward Quincy Acy led the Knicks with 19 points, and Jose Calderon added 13.

## Trail Blazers 98, Lakers 94

In Portland, Damian Lillard

scored 39 points and made the go-ahead basket with 36 seconds remaining as Portland rallied from a 10-point deficit in the second half to beat Los Angeles.

Lillard hit four 3-pointers, and scored 16 points during the fourth quarter to lead the Trail Blazers (27-8). He has scored at least 39 points in three of his past nine games.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 points, and reserve center Meyers Leonard had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Portland.

Kobe Bryant, the Lakers' leading scorer at 23.6 points per game, stayed home for a scheduled day of rest.

## Wizards 92, Pelicans 85

In New Orleans, John Wall had 15 points and 12 assists, and Washington ended its longest skid of the season at three games with a victory over New Orleans.

Paul Pierce scored 14 points on 6-of-8 shooting for the Wizards, who had five players in double figures. Andre Miller added 12 points, and Marcin Gortat and Kris Humphries each had 10.

Anthony Davis had 21 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which led only once—by a single point in the first 4 minutes of the game.

Tyreke Evans, playing despite an illness that kept him out of the team's shootaround earlier in the day, scored 21 points.

## Hornets 104, Celtics 95

In Boston, Kemba Walker scored 20 of his 33 points in the second half and Cody Zeller finished with a career-high 20 on a perfect shooting night, carrying Charlotte over Boston.

It was just the second win in seven games for the Hornets, who learned last week that leading scorer Al Jefferson will be

sidelined for about three more weeks with a left groin injury.

Zeller went 8 for 8 from the floor, hit all four of his free throws and improved to 6-0 against his older brother Tyler, who plays for the Celtics. Tyler Zeller had two points in 16 minutes.

## Nuggets 110, Timberwolves 101

In Minneapolis, Arron Afflalo scored 34 points to help Denver hand Minnesota its 12th straight loss.

J.J. Hickson had 16 points and 11 rebounds and the Nuggets shot 55 percent to cruise past the Timberwolves (5-28), by far the worst team in the Western Conference. Jusuf Nurkic scored 14 points and Ty Lawson added 12 assists for the Nuggets, whose reserves outscored Minnesota's 47-10.

Gorgui Dieng tied a career high with 22 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and Shabazz Muhammad added 19 points and six boards for Minnesota.

## Pacers 105, Jazz 101

In Salt Lake City, Roy Hibbert scored 22 points to help Indiana outlast Utah.

Hibbert, who got into a skirmish with the Lakers' Carlos Boozer in a one-point loss at Los Angeles on Sunday, again played with a fiery edge and repeatedly went over 7-foot-1 Rudy Gobert for inside baskets before fouling out in the final minute.

Derrick Favors had 27 points and 11 rebounds and Gordon Hayward scored 24 for the Jazz, who were missing starting point guard Trey Burke (strep throat) and center Enes Kanter (sprained ankle).

The Pacers led 98-90 with a minute remaining, but the Jazz nearly completed a furious comeback with a 39-point fourth quarter.

## SIDEBAR

### Cavs trade Waiters to OKC, get Smith, Shumpert from Knicks

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—The Cavaliers tried to make it work with Dion Waiters. They couldn't wait any longer.

Cleveland traded the shooting guard to Oklahoma City on Monday night and acquired guards J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert from the New York Knicks in a three-team deal.

A disappointing 19-16 after losing at Philadelphia, the Cavs dealt Waiters to the Thunder in exchange for Oklahoma City's protected 2015 first-round pick. Also, the Cavs sent reserves Lou Amundson and Alex Kirk and their 2019 second-round pick to the Knicks, who are 5-32 and desperate to clear salary-cap space.

New York also received forward Lance Thomas from Oklahoma City.

The Cavs have been ravaged by injuries in superstar LeBron James' first season back in Cleveland and needed to shake things up. The team had discussed moving Waiters, the No. 4 overall pick, over the past two years and finally struck a deal. Both James and All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving sat out against the Sixers because of injuries.

Waiters was pulled from the starting lineup in Philadelphia - his hometown - shortly before the Cavs lost to the lowly 76ers, who got their first home win. The 6-foot-4 Waiters began the season in Cleveland's starting lineup, but was removed after three games. He made some defensive strides, but too often Waiters seemed mostly concerned about scoring.

"Dion is a talented player with potential ahead of him," Cavs general manager David Griffin said. "Trades like this are always difficult to make because there are relationships and bonds built and that was the case with Dion. At the same time, we're very excited to welcome Iman and J.R. to Cleveland. With their size and versatility, we think both Iman and J.R. can help our team on both ends of the court and we look forward to them joining us."

The mercurial Smith, who has never been afraid to shoot, could give Cleveland's bench the offensive boost first-year coach David Blatt has been looking for all season. Waiters had some success coming in as a reserve, but he never seemed comfortable in that role and the Cavs finally found him a new home.

Smith is a bit of a wild card, and it will be interesting to see how he interacts with Cleveland's current roster. He has known James for several

years, which should ease the transition.

Smith was the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year in 2013, but has battled injuries to his heel this season, along with his usual struggles with shot selection and focus off the court.

Shumpert, who has been sidelined with a dislocated shoulder, is regarded as a solid perimeter defender. He had been starting before his injury, averaging 9.3 points, and will probably start for Cleveland.

Griffin's trade came a day after he offered support to Blatt, who is still adjusting in his first NBA season. It hasn't helped that James is out for at least another week with a strained back and knee, Irving missed Monday's game with a back issue and starting center Anderson Varejao is done for the season after tearing his Achilles and undergoing surgery.

Cleveland remains in the market for a big man and have assets remaining to pull off another deal. The Cavs are entering a tough part of their schedule with a home game on Wednesday against Houston before a give-game West Coast trip.

"We have to get as many players as we can get back," center Kevin Love said after the loss in Philadelphia. "We're about to hit murderer's row now on the West Coast. We need to keep fighting. We're down, but not out."

The Thunder, who have had their own injury issues, believe Waiters can bring immediate help. Waiters is versatile, can score and should add some firepower to Oklahoma City's second unit.

"Dion Waiters is a player that we've tracked and liked since his time at Syracuse, in the NBA, and with USA Basketball," general manager Sam Presti said. "Dion provides another proven scorer that positively impacts our roster and adds depth and flexibility."

The moves will allow him to trim more millions off the salary cap, which will allow them to pursue free agents this summer. The team released center Samuel Dalembert and is expected to do the same with Amundson and Kirk.

"As our journey moves through this season, we will search for the type of players that fit the style we hope to exhibit for our fans," Jackson said. "Our desire is to improve our ability to compete. ... These transactions improve our flexibility to the current roster and the salary cap for future seasons."



# Ohio State, Oregon aim to end title drought



**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — Ohio State is looking

for its first national title since 2002. Oregon is seeking its first, period.

Pac-12 champion Oregon and Big Ten champion Ohio State will meet in Arlington, Texas, at the home of the Cowboys on Jan. 12 in the first College Football Playoff championship game.

"It's perfect," Oregon linebacker Derrick Malone Jr. said.

"I need another game. I'm glad I can still be a part of this. If we didn't have another game I wouldn't know what to do with myself."

The Ducks (13-1) and Buckeyes (13-1) last played in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, in 2010. Ohio State won that game 26-17. Now the Rose Bowl comes to Texas, but with so much more at stake.

Cardale Jones, Ezekiel Elliott and fourth-seeded Ohio State rallied, and then held on for a 42-35 victory over No. 1 Alabama at the Sugar Bowl on

Thursday night.

Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota and Oregon had it much easier. The second-seeded Ducks crushed Florida State 59-20 at the Rose Bowl.

"Oregon won by 40?" Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said, startled when he heard about the results during his postgame news conference in New Orleans. "I gotta go. We gotta go get ready for that one."

The oddsmakers have installed the Ducks as seven-point favorites.

The College Football Playoff,

a four-team tournament that replaced the Bowl Championship Series, has provided a jolt to the sport.

The BCS matched the top two teams and didn't allow much room for error. An early slip often could spell doom for a team's national title hopes.

In the old system, it would have been very difficult for Ohio State to recover from a September home loss to Virginia Tech. The Buckeyes were a team looking for an identity back then. They had lost star quarterback Braxton Miller to

a preseason injury and redshirt freshman J.T. Barrett was still developing.

Ohio State lost by 14 to the Hokies on the same day Oregon beat Michigan State.

Two weeks into the season, the Big Ten was already being counted out for the first playoff.

But a funny thing happened. Ohio State just kept getting better.

## Ridin' Darryt, Fearless rule divisions

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Naked Fish Ridin' Darryt and the Oleai Team Fearless defeated separate opponents to rule their respective divisions in the Bud Light Cup of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association League held last week in various bars on the island.

The Ridin' Darryt rallied to beat the Smoke Pub Hunters, 9-8, in the A division, while Team Fearless escaped with an 8-7 decision against the Sand Juvy 22 Snipers in the Tuesday B class in a pair of finals matches that went the full route.

Sand Juvy Put3ska ripped sister team No Fear, 8-4, (Fanihi); the Jokers Warriors trounced Ridin' Darryt, 8-3, (Flame Tree); and Jokers Kitty Kats edged the G-Side Shooters, 8-6, (Ladies) are the other division winners.

Meanwhile, The Spartans take on Ta Chagi, while Jump It battle Bull-It in a pair of semi-finals matches tonight in the Chichirika division with the two finals berths at stake. The finals will be played on Jan. 14.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai Team Fearless members pose for a group photo after beating Sand Juvy 22 Snipers in the finals of the Tuesday B division in last week's Bud Light Cup of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association League.

The Naked Fish-backed squad trailed the Hunters, 6-8, entering the last two matches in the partners event.

The pairs of James Benavente and Blaren Camacho, and Darryl Brennan and June Nunez scored consecutive wins over the tandems of Renato Barros and Modie Zamora, and Arvin Orense and Chris Omne to foil the Hunters' title bid in their race-to-9 contest.

The Hunters were one win away from securing the title

when they were beaten by Ridin' Darryt in the Team event.

Benavente, Brennan, Camacho, and Nunez clinched the crown when they defeated Barros, Orense, Zamora, and Paul Quizon.

Ridin' Darryt, the regular season champions, scored a 9-5 decision over the 101 Proofers in the quarterfinals and pulled off a 9-4 triumph against the Route33 Mixblood in the semifinals.

The Hunters tripped sister team Comatose, 9-6, and mauled the Mafia, 9-1, to earn the right of facing Ridin' Darryt in the finals.

Fearless pulled off an upset in the Tuesday B division as they finished second to the last in the regular season with a 91-149 record or 17 games ahead of cellar dwellers Sand Juvy Sparkz. The

Snipers came in sixth in the 10-team field (115-125).

In the title match against the Snipers, Oleai and Sand Juvy entered the final Team event tied at 7-7.

The Oleai quartet of Nathan Bermudez, Ansen Jones, Byron Kaneshi and Josh Villagomez downed Rene Aguayon, Pepe Orola, Rod Paminutan and JR Vito in the Team event to seal the title win.

Fearless clipped Smoke Pub High On Darts, 8-5, to clinch a finals berth, while the Snipers nipped Marupok, 8-7, in their semifinal encounter.

The awarding of the regular season and Bud Light Cup winners is set on Jan. 25, starting at 10:30am at the Pacific Island Club-Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

## TSUNAMI

From Page 28

vicious PBTs of 43.44 and 43.03 seconds, respectively. Tenorio topped the event, while Batalones was ranked fourth.

In the 200m individual medley, all three Tsunami Saipan swimmers who joined the tough event gained PBTs. Batallones had the biggest drop, chopping off around 30 seconds from his old PBT (3:45.32) after tallying 3:15.08, which was a field best. Tenorio registered 3:23.17 to eclipse his 3:23.98 and rule the race, while De Jesus had 2:56.60 (from 2:59.30), the second fastest time in the girls 15 to 16 age group.

De Jesus also earned a PBT in the 100m backstroke with her 1:25.34 (from 1:27.59), while Suzuki and Aleksenko had the same feat in the 50m breaststroke after timing in at 1:06.84 (from 1:13.01) and 54.52 seconds (1:01.19), respectively. Aleksenko won the event against four swimmers, while

Suzuki and De Jesus finished second.

In the 200m freestyle, the visiting Tsunami Saipan swimmers got three more PBTs with Suzuki posting 3:35.08 (from 3:46.39), Aleksenko logging 3:12.80 (from 4:16.59), and Tenorio recording 2:55.71 (from 2:55.75).

Batallones missed a PBT in the 200m freestyle event, but got it in a longer race—the 400m freestyle—as his 5:57.99 erased his old mark of 6:12.00. He placed third in the event behind Tsunami Guam's Caleb White (5:16.05) and Kane Aricayos (5:42.89).

The 11-year-old Batallones also earned a PBT in the 50m butterfly race after timing in at 37.88 seconds (from 37.91), while Tenorio gave Tsunami Saipan the last PBT with his 36.39 seconds in the 50m freestyle event. Tenorio cut down around one second from his previous PBT (37.33 seconds) as he prevailed in the race against six other swimmers.

## MISO

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singles players. Then there will be boys and girls doubles and mixed doubles events," Race said.

"Though we have done this similar competition more than 10 years ago, still this format is something new to our players. But they are very excited to compete in this kind of tournament," Race added.

The event will be dubbed as MISO All Schools Tennis Championships and details of the competition will be discussed in the first organization meeting this Jan. 10 at 11:30am at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

"Please make sure to send

a prospective coach or school representative to the meeting as we will be discussing the tournament format and preparation for the introduction of a tennis season in SY 15-16," Gross said.

Race added the MISO tournament will give the island's young players another opportunity to compete and excel. The Commonwealth's junior players usually join four regular tournaments sanctioned by NMITA. The list includes the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic every November, the Coconut Classic in February, the PIC Championships in March, and the CNMI Junior Championships in April. In the past, at least three more tournaments complement NMITA's competitions.

## BANMI wants younger group to take over

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be reorganizing the board as its officials plan to let a younger group take over the reins of the organization.

BANMI president Tony Rogolifoi said that he will be stepping down and will be calling for an election on Jan. 15 at 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Rogolifoi said his duties as executive director of the Northern Marianas Sports Association is the main reason he decided to give up the BANMI post.

"I have to step down because I'm already swamped with work here at NMSA. We're going to be busy with the resurfacing of the track and there are other things lined up and I won't be able to perform my duties as BANMI president with that," Rogolifoi added.

He's requesting all BANMI stakeholders, members, and the current officers to attend next week's meeting and elect new members of the board.

"We want to reorganize BANMI, open the New Year fresh, and give opportunity to others," said Rogolifoi. "We want to bring in new faces and have a younger group that would steer the organization into the future."

Rogolifoi said once they elected the new set of directors, members of the board would select among them the president and the other officers of BANMI.

"Once the new president takes over, he can now discuss what events, leagues, and projects BANMI will be organizing for the year," said Rogolifoi.

"They will have their own agenda so we're giving them the freehand to discuss them. We're just here to guide them. We welcome ideas that would help the organization further promote basketball in the CNMI."

BANMI organizes and sanctions basketball events in the CNMI and forms the national teams that have been competing in various basketball events in the Micronesian and Oceania regions.

They haven't had a national championship and NMSA is asking all member federations to hold one every year.



JON PEREZ

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Perry Inos, left, slips past the defense of Iramk Simada of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. during their game in the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands-organized 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-government League. BANMI will be holding an election next week with the board tasked to map out the group's various activities for the year.

## WANTED

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their resumes to the NMSA sports complex office at the Ada gym.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 2346672.

Meanwhile, NMSA has also asked all sports federations that will be sending athletes in Papua New Guinea to submit their entry by numbers on or before Jan. 16.

The CNMI will be competing only in 5 of the 26 sports to be played in the July Pacific

Games. The Commonwealth will only field athletes in beach volleyball, bodybuilding, lawn tennis, athletics, and triathlon competitions.

Basketball, beach soccer, boxing, cricket, football, hockey, karate, lawn bowls, powerlifting, rugby 7s, rugby league, shooting squash, table tennis, taekwondo, touch rugby, va'a, volleyball, weightlifting, and the medal-rich swimming are the other sports offered in the 15th edition of the quadrennial sporting event.



# 2014 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Luther Lizama prepares to serve during his and Michael Ren's title game against Steven Lee and Colin Ramsey in the boys U18 doubles event of the 2014 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic held late last year at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.



Ellie Epley goes for a forehand return near the baseline.



Moris Villanueva makes a baseline return.



Allan Lee returns to Aditya Rai and Sean Lee.



Tommy Choi serves to Moris Villanueva during their boys U18 title match.



Julia Ishikawa eyes a backhand return to Tania Tan during their girls U14 title game.



Maria Gregoire makes a leaping return.



Sean Lee serves to Allan Lee and Eugene Park.



Erika Tuttle checks the spot of her opponent first before serving.





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## Tsunami Saipan bets update PBTs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The five Tsunami Saipan swimmers had a worthy trip to Guam late last month as they did not only brought high-point awards, but also reset their personal best times.

Kana Suzuki, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Juhn Tenorio, who notched high-point top honors in their respective age groups in the 2014 Guam International Meet, and Angel De Jesus and Nelson Batallones combined for 17 PBTs when they joined the Dec. 29 and 30 tournament held at the Hagatna Swimming Pool.

Three of the five Tsunami Saipan bets registered PBTs in the 100m freestyle swim with Suzuki submitting 1:38.52 (from 1:41.89), Aleksenko logging 1:26.16 (from 1:30:04),



**Tsunami**  
SAIPAN

and Tenorio posting 1:18.38 (from 1:19.73).

Suzuki's time in the 100m freestyle topped the girls U8 field, as she defeated Tsunami Guam's Sydney Packbier (1:39.26) and Andersen Marlins' Taylor Frederickson (2:27.47). Aleksenko also had the best time in his age group (U8), beating three other swimmers, while Tenorio finished second among five swimmers in the 9 to 10 division.

In the 50m backstroke, Suzuki had about a four-second drop as she clocked a field's second best 54.28 seconds (from 58.10), while Tenorio and Batallones timed in at 42.08 and 41.34 seconds to beat their pre-

**See TSUNAMI on Page 26**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
From left, Kana Suzuki, Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, and Isaiah Aleksenko pose for a photo after the awards ceremony for the 2014 Guam International Meet last month at the Hagatna Swimming Pool.

## Wanted: Golfers for Team CNMI

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi is requesting presidents or representatives of all CNMI golf associations to attend a meeting tomorrow to discuss plans of forming a golf team that will compete in the 2015 Pacific Games.

Finalizing the criteria and other ways to select the CNMI's Top 4 players will be the main agenda of the meeting set for

12pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rogolifoi, who also represents golf in NMSA, said the Top 4 golfers selected will represent the CNMI in the XV Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from July 4 to 18.

He added that the Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding a series of qualifying events, starting this month to select potential members of the

CNMI national men's golf team.

The Saipan Golf Association, Fil-Taga and Marianas Golf Association are some of the other golf groups in the CNMI.

Player eligibility, registration fees, and fundraising activities are the other issues to be discussed at the meeting.

Rogolifoi is also advising interested coaches to start submitting

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TOC SAIPAN  
A golfer gets ready to swing during last year's Tournament of Champions at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The CNMI is looking for golfers who will compete in the Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.

## Tennis makes MISO calendar

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

"The school's No. 1 player goes with the No. 2 and 3 will play against the opposing school's No. 1 and the same

**See MISO on Page 26**



Lawn tennis will be the latest addition to Marianas

Interscholastic Sports Association's calendar of events for the 2015-2016 school year.

The inclusion of tennis to a host of sports competitions MISO is conducting is made possible through a series of talks between Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association official and CNMI coach Jeff Race and MISO executive director of operations Nick Gross and support of the Public School System.

However, unlike the regular tennis tournaments on the island, MISO's version will be patterned after that of the collegiate ranks—the team competition.

Race said that under this set-up, each participating school will have a six-member squad composed of three boys and three girls. Gross, in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said the tennis competition is open to junior high and high school students.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Saipan International School's Tommy Choi serves to Moris Villanueva during their title game in the boys U18 singles division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. Next school year, the island's junior players will be able to compete in a team tournament organized by Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization.